Author’s response to reviews

Title: Thyroid Disease Awareness is Associated with High Rates of Identifying Subjects with Previously Undiagnosed Thyroid Dysfunction

Authors:

Gay J Canaris (gcanaris@unmc.edu)
Thomas G Tape (tgtape@unmc.edu)
Robert S Wigton (wigton@unmc.edu)

Version: 3 Date: 7 March 2013

Author’s response to reviews:

Cover letter regarding Manuscript 1934276408816013
February 15, 2013

Dear Ms. Audrey Ann Reyes on behalf of Dr. Sarah Damery:

Thank you for your comments.
The following changes have been made as requested:

Reviewer Kevin Deane:

• Discuss the limitation of the population in applying symptoms as a predictor:
  Please see revisions made to the Discussion/Conclusions section, specifically in
  the second to last paragraph.
• Do the authors have any sense of what thyroid symptoms were in those that
  attended the lecture on thyroid awareness, but did not get their blood tested? No.
• Changes have been made to the Abstract to emphasize that this was a highly
  thyroid disease focused health fair. Similar changes to emphasize this point have
  been made in the Discussion/Conclusions section.
• The title has been changed as suggested.
• Title has been changed and further elaboration has been added to the
  Discussion/Conclusions section to highlight the finding of higher prevalence with
  a population that has had disease-specific education.
• We do not have sufficient data for a thorough cost-effectiveness analysis. A
  sentence has been added suggesting this as a limitation of the study.
• We did also use linear regression with outcome TSH level as continuous. Also,
  with number of symptoms as a predictor variable for TSH level. Please see
  revised paragraph, last paragraph of Results.
• Regarding emerging evidence that lower TSH levels may actually reflect
  hypothyroidism – discussion is added to the Discussion/Conclusions section in
the third-to-last paragraph.

- I added TSH distribution to the Demographics table, and it is also included in the text (second paragraph of Results).

Reviewer Deborah McCahon:

1. Added to the Abstract and the Methods section that this is an observational study of a health fair with a focus on testing for thyroid dysfunction.
2. The information is added as Table 2.
3. Mean age of the general population in Michigan where the health fair took place is added (first paragraph Results).
4. The prevalences are added in the text and in the table.
5. An additional Demographics table is included to show the breakdown by thyroid function group.
6. This has been added to the previous Table 2 (now Table 3). I did not repeat the number reporting each symptom in Table 4 since that information is now available through Table 3, and I was trying to avoid making Table 4 have too much information. Please let me know if you do want that information in each cell of Table 4 as well. Thank you.

Minor

1. Corrected.
2. I have made the changes to “a case-control” study.
3. The reference is added.
4. Changed to thyroid dysfunction not only in these two places, but in multiple other areas of the manuscript, thank you.

Sincerely,
Gay Canaris, MD MSPH