Author's response to reviews

Title: Changes in Health Related Quality of Life 3 months after an acute coronary syndrome

Authors:

Inmaculada I Failde (inmaculada.failde@uca.es)
Maria M Soto (maria.soto@andaluciajunta.es)

Version: 2 Date: 2 January 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
Editors
BioMed Central Public Health

Cádiz 2 January 2006

Dear Dr,

First of all, we would like to thank you for your comments and for offering us the opportunity to revise and resubmit our article: "Changes in Health Related Quality of Life 3 months after an acute coronary syndrome” to BMC Public Health”. We also appreciate the suggestions and comments made by the Reviewers. In the light of these, the following improvements have been made:

Reviewer 1.
Introduction
1. Two paragraphs (pages 3 and 4 have been included in the Introduction of the article, in which we specify the relationship between sociodemographic, clinical and psychological variables and the HRQL described by other authors (ref 9-13). The purpose of this is to explain more clearly the objectives of the study, as indicated by the reviewer.
Method:
1. The patients included in the study and the exclusion criteria have been specified on page 4.
2. On page 4 in the second paragraph of the methods section, there is a detailed explanation of the procedure utilized for calculating the size of the sample, which we have based on the articles of Jenkinson et al. and Gandek et al.
3. On page 5, at the end of paragraph 1, the number of subjects who responded to the first questionnaire is specified (n=132).
4. On page 4 last paragraph, it has been stated that the baseline assessment was made when the patient was clinically stable, between 3 and 7 days after their admission to hospital.
5. On page 5, paragraph 3, the sociodemographic, clinical and psychological variables included in the study have been specified.
6. On page 6 the new paragraph 2 has been included to describe in detail the psychological aspects measured with the various subscales of the GHQ-28, as recommended by the reviewer.

7. In the tables (3 and 4) “baseline” has been replaced by “Onset” in order to unify the terminology utilized in the article and to make the text easier to understand.

8. With respect to the “risk for mass significance” due to the high number of comparisons commented on by the reviewer, we consider that by making only 2 comparisons in time (basal and at 3 months) and with all these in the HRQL dimensions with independent valuations, the application of the correction of Bonferroni would not be justified (Padierna and cols. Changes in health related quality of life among patients treated for eating disorders. Quality of Life Research 2002; 11:545:552 . Feinstein AR. Principles of Medical Statistics. Chapman & Hall/CRC 2002. )

9. A paragraph has been included on page 7 specifying the independent variables introduced in the multiple regression models and the method utilized for their inclusion.

Results.

1. At the beginning of the Results section, a paragraph has been included explaining that the results presented form part of a wider study of 6 months follow-up.

Bibliography.
The references 11-13, 15,16 and 32 have been included.

Reviewer 2:

1. In the title of the article “coronary attack” has been replaced by “acute coronary syndrome” as recommended by the reviewer.

2. The word “selected” has been changed to “identified”

3. The percentage of patients with “previous history of CHD” has been specified in the text and has been indicated in Table 1, in response to the question of the reviewer on “whether patients had a first or subsequent acute coronary syndrome”.

4. At the end of the Discussion (page 13) a new paragraph has been added in which we include as a limitation of the study the absence of a calculation of the minimally important clinical difference, including the reference 32 of Ang and cols. In which an
MCID more than 12% above the basal measurement is considered acceptable; this percentage is higher in the PCS of our study.

5. In the Methodology section, the variable comorbidity is defined, in accordance with the suggestion of the reviewer.

In accordance with the recommendations of the editorial office, in Table1 “tabae” has been corrected to “tobacco”, and the title and text have been adapted to the recommendations of the journal.

We believe that these modifications and comments cover all the views and suggestions made by the reviewers and editor.

Once again, thank you for your kind attention. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Inmaculada Failde