Author's response to reviews

Title: Implementing hospital guidelines improves warfarin use in non-valvular atrial fibrillation: a before-after study.

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Version: 2  Date: 17 April 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief,

I would be grateful if the enclosed manuscript could be considered as a "Research Article" in BMC Public Health. The present manuscript has not been published previously and is not under consideration elsewhere. All authors have read and agreed to its content.

No conflict of interest exists.

The study is a survey performed in a large tertiary-care hospital, before-and-after implementing locally-adapted guidelines on antithrombotic therapy to prevent non-valvular atrial fibrillation-related strokes. This paper shows that:

- oral anticoagulant therapy use significantly increased in patients at high cardioembolic risk, after guideline implementation;
- warfarin use decreased in patients for whom it was clearly not recommended;
- the guideline implementation has substantially improved the appropriateness of antithrombotic therapy at discharged, through a better evaluation at patient’s individual level of the benefit-to-risk ratio.

We think that the high prevalence of the conditions treated, the efficiency of the approach tested, with implications in the field of prevention might represent points of interest for the general medical audience.

Many thanks for the attention you would devote to our manuscript.

Sincerely Yours,

Simona Bo