Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effects of short-term treatment with atorvastatin in smokers with asthma - a randomized controlled trial

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Dear Editor

Thank you for considering this manuscript. We believe the findings are of importance for the following reasons;

1. Active smoking is common in asthma with prevalence rates similar to those found in the general population, yet this group respond poorly to inhaled corticosteroids and there is an unmet need for improved therapies

2. Pre-clinical studies suggest that statins have anti-inflammatory that may be beneficial in the treatment of smokers with asthma

3. This study is the first randomized placebo controlled trial of statin treatment in smokers with asthma

4. We found that short-term treatment with atorvastatin did not alter lung function but did improve asthma quality of life in smokers with mild to moderate asthma.

Many thanks

Neil C Thomson