Author's response to reviews

Title: Epidemiology and long-term survival of pulmonary arterial hypertension in the Czech Republic: a retrospective analysis of a nationwide registry

Authors:

Pavel Jansa (jansapavel@yahoo.com)
Jiri Jarkovsky (jarkovsky@iba.muni.cz)
Hikmet Al-Hiti (hial@atlas.cz)
Jana Popelova (Jana.Popelova@homolka.cz)
David Ambroz (dambroz@seznam.cz)
Tomas Zatocil (zatocil@centrum.cz)
Regina Votavova (regina.votavova@centrum.cz)
Pavel Polacek (Pavel.Polacek@vfn.cz)
Jana Maresova (kocarnikova@volny.cz)
Micheal Aschermann (aschermann@seznam.cz)
Petr Brabec (brabec@iba.muni.cz)
Ladislav Dusek (dusek@iba.muni.cz)
Ales Linhart (alinh@lf1.cuni.cz)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
18th February 2014

Dear Dr Marcon,

My co-authors and I are very grateful for your careful review of our response letter and changes brought to the manuscript. We are most pleased to hear that all comments have been addressed satisfactorily. In order to address the additional comment from reviewer 1 and your editorial recommendation, please find below a point-by-point response to the feedback.

We would like to thank you once again for considering our article (MS: 1074423466113581) for publication in BMC Pulmonary Medicine.

We look forward to hearing back from you in due course,

Yours sincerely,

Prof Pavel Jansa
Reviewer: 1 (Evan L Brittain)

1. I appreciate the authors' close attention to addressing reviewer concerns. The additional information included in the revised manuscript is helpful in clarifying both the strengths and weaknesses of the study presented. My only additional suggestion would be for the authors to state/discuss that because the diagnosis is being made with more efficiency, as indicated by the dramatic increase in incident cases from 2007 onward, prevalence will also increase dramatically. Therefore, the prevalence reported in this paper (22.4/million) is probably already outdated and will need to be revised in coming years.

   • This limitation has been added to the limitation section on page 15 of the discussion:
   • "..." However, the well-defined process for PAH diagnosis in the Czech Republic is a definite strength of the study, as it allowed us to study the epidemiology of PAH during a period when considerable advances in PAH diagnosis were occurring. It should also be noted that due to the advances in diagnosis during this period and the increase in incident cases since 2007, the prevalence of PAH in the Czech Republic will need to be reevaluated in the near future..."

Editorial reviewer 2

1. The Authors have satisfactorily responded to the reviewers' comments. I would recommend to consider the further suggestion from Reviewer n.1. The Authors could consider this comment in the limitations of their study.
   • In order to address the comment from review 1 the paragraph discussing the limitation of the study on page 15 of the discussion has now been updated as described above.

2. Finally, could the manuscript title be changed to "Epidemiology and long-term survival of pulmonary arterial hypertension in the Czech Republic: a
retrospective analysis of a nationwide registry”? (please delete "in patients").

- The title has been updated as suggested.