Author's response to reviews

Title: The association of gout with sleep disorders: a cross-sectional study in primary care

Authors:

Edward Roddy (e.roddy@cphc.keele.ac.uk)
Sara Muller (s.muller@cphc.keele.ac.uk)
Richard Hayward (r.hayward@cphc.keele.ac.uk)
Christian D Mallen (c.d.mallen@cphc.keele.ac.uk)

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Dr Edward Roddy
Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre
Primary Care Sciences
Keele University
Keele
Staffordshire
UK
ST5 5BG

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to submit our manuscript entitled: “The association of gout with sleep disorders: a cross-sectional study in primary care”, for consideration as a research article to be published in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders. The data are taken from the CiPCA (Consultation in Primary Care Archive), which is a database of all consultations and prescriptions in 13 primary care practices in North Staffordshire, UK. We have used data from nine of these practices, which are regularly audited. The recording of health care contacts by primary care staff in these practices is shown to be of a high quality. Data from this database have previously been published in a wide range of high quality peer-reviewed journals. This manuscript presents a cross-sectional study of the association between a diagnosis of gout and sleep disorders.

Both gout and obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome are prevalent and associated with considerable co-morbidity including the metabolic syndrome. Hyperuricaemia, which is the primary risk factor for the development of gout, is present in up to 50% of people with obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome. However, this is the first study to examine a possible association between gout...
and sleep disorders including obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome.

Our findings are show that those with gout have up to twice the odds of such sleep disorders as those without gout. Clinicians should be aware of the co-existence of these two conditions as an explanation of unexplained excessive sleepiness in patients with gout or joint pain in obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome.

This manuscript has not been previously published and is not under consideration in the same or substantially similar form in any other peer-reviewed media. All authors listed have contributed sufficiently to the project to be included as authors, and all those who are qualified to be authors are listed in the author byline. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript. To the best of our knowledge, no conflict of interest, financial or other, exists. The CiPCA database is funded by the North Staffordshire Primary Care Research Consortium. RH is supported by an NIHR Clinical Lectureship. CM is supported by an Arthritis Research UK Clinical Scientist Award. SM is supported by National School for Primary Care Research Fellowship. We have included acknowledgements and author contributions in the manuscript. All individuals named in the acknowledgements section have given permission to be named.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Edward Roddy

Email: e.roddy@cphc.keele.ac.uk
Telephone: 0044 (0)1782 734715, Fax: 0044 (0)1782 733911