Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effect of Vitamin D on Bone Mineral Density of Elderly Patients with Osteoporosis Responding Poorly to Bisphosphonates

Authors:

George A Heckman (heck0@home.com)
Alexandra Papaioannou (papaioannou@hhsc.ca)
Rolf J Sebaldt (sebaldt@mcmaster.ca)
George Ioannidis (g.ioannidis@sympatico.ca)
Annie Petrie (petriea@mcmaster.ca)
Charlie Goldsmith (goldsmit@mcmaster.ca)
Jonathan D Adachi (jd.adachi@sympatico.ca)

Version: 2 Date: 10 Jan 2002

PDF covering letter
Dear Ms. King:

Thank you for granting us the extension to allow us to prepare a revised manuscript for your consideration. Several changes to the original manuscript have been made, the majority of which are in response to the reviewer’s comments. The changes are as follows:

1. Please note my new email address (heck0@rogers.com).

2. In the background section, the comment on male osteoporosis was deleted as it contributed little additional information of relevance to the paper. The reference was deleted as well.

3. The last three sentences of page 5 were changed as per the reviewer’s advice, and the changes to the first two lines of page 6 were also carried out.

4. Regarding the use of vitamin D in the BIS group, all patients in this group were chosen if they responded to bisphosphonate therapy in the preceding year and were not taking vitamin D supplements. All these patients received counselling on vitamin D therapy; however, they did not take any supplements. This was clarified in the text.

5. The abbreviation for DEXA was changed to DXA, and technical information on DXA devices and vitamin D assays was included. The comment on the Intel Platform was deleted.

6. The CANDOO database captures laboratory values obtained during routine care by the osteoporosis specialist. Accordingly, not all patients were tested for vitamin D, as specific funding for this test was not available. We agree with the reviewer that this information would have been desirable.

7. In the results section, the wording under the heading Effect of baseline serum vitamin D has been clarified.
8. In the discussion section, paragraph 2 was deleted as we were of the opinion that it contributed little to the paper. The reference 34 was deleted.

9. We agree with the reviewer that part of the effect of vitamin D supplementation was related to poor baseline levels and nutrition. We have reflected this view by altering the wording of the first paragraph of the discussion and by altering the content of paragraph 4.

10. Paragraph 5 was also edited. The example describing the impact of different durations of bisphosphonate therapy was deleted. We were of the opinion that this comment added little to the discussion.

11. In response to the reviewer’s final comment, we have shortened the length of the paper by 10%.

We trust you will find these changes satisfactory and are grateful for the opportunity to resubmit this manuscript for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George A. Heckman MD FRCPC
Clinical Scholar