Author’s response to reviews

Title: Osteoporosis in Canadian Adult Cystic Fibrosis Patients: A Descriptive Study

Authors:

Ms Christine Brenckmann (cbrenckmann@hotmail.com)
Dr Alexandra Papaioannou (papaioannou@hhsc.ca)
Andy Freitag (freitaga@mcmaster.ca)
Rosamund Hennessey (hennesssey@hhsc.ca)
Suzanne Hansen (shansen@hhsc.ca)
George Ioannidis (g.ioannidis@sympatico.ca)
Colin Webber (webberc@mcmaster.ca)
Jonathan Adachi (jd.adachi@sympatico.ca)

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In light of the reviewers' comments, we have made the following revisions to our manuscript:

1) abstract - three sites were mentioned but only two percentages were provided; the reference to "femoral neck" was removed because no data are provided
2) background - median survival in Canada added; included inflammation, malnutrition, and physical inactivity added as contributors to osteoporosis
3) results (study population) - changed "birth control pill" to "an oral contraceptive"; included description of vitamin D levels in text; mentioned that vitamin D levels were measured at various points during the year
4) results (sub-group analysis) - more information was provided on the corticosteroid dose for patients receiving bisphosphonates; all sub-group analyses are under-powered due to the small sample size of the study; more complex analyses will be done in a larger, future study since this is just a pilot study; however, because of the importance of data on treatment options, and because bisphosphonate data were specifically requested by one reviewer, a sub-analysis of patients receiving bisphosphonates is provided
5) results (fractures), discussion (fractures), and conclusions - clarified that data refer only to clinical, non-vertebral fractures
6) discussion (annual changes in BMD) - emphasised the importance of longitudinal changes; clarified sentence about height measurements
7) discussion (laboratory values) - mentioned seasonal variation in vitamin D levels; noted that vitamin D deficiency is not unusual given the latitude of the study centre; explained why we chose 16 ng/mL as the lower limit of normal for vitamin D levels; clarified that abnormal GGT levels are usually indicative of impaired liver function rather than bone disease
8) discussion (study limitations) - stated that the small sample size of this study is a limitation, but that it is only a pilot, and precedes a larger, future study which will include regression of variables that may predict BMD
9) figure 1 - mentioned that vitamin D levels were measured at various points during the year