Author's response to reviews

Title: Predictive factors of adrenal insufficiency in patients admitted to acute medical wards: a case control study

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Version: 2 Date: 21 August 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our manuscript untitled “Predictive factors of adrenal insufficiency in patients admitted to acute medical wards: a case control study” by Jean-Baptiste Oboni and co-authors to consider for publication as a Research Article in BMC Endocrine Disorders. We believe that our findings would appeal to the readers of the BMC Endocrine Disorders.

The diagnosis of adrenal failure, a life-threatening condition, may be difficult to address in everyday clinical practice. Symptoms and signs associated with adrenal insufficiency are quite difficult to recognize and the performance of this clinical appreciation is unknown. Herein we evaluated the performance of these signs in patients admitted with a suspicion of adrenal failure during a three years period in a university internal medicine ward. During this period, 339 patients had an ACTH-stimulation test for suspicion of adrenal insufficiency. This represents 3.0% of the 11’310 patients treated during the same period in the general internal medicine ward of the Lausanne university hospital, and one of nine ACTH-stimulation tests was considered as abnormal and required urgent administration of glucocorticoid. In the group that had a blunted response to the test, namely those who had an adrenal insufficiency, the prevalence of symptoms, signs and biological markers was analyzed compared to the control group. Our results suggest that history of glucocorticoid withdrawal is the most critical factor associated with potential adrenal insufficiency.

We confirm that this manuscript has not been published previously and is not under consideration for publication by another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to the BMC Endocrine Disorders.
I thank you for your consideration and hope the manuscript will be of interest to the BMC Endocrine Disorders

Sincerely

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