Author's response to reviews

Title: Increased cancer mortality in diabetic people treated with insulin: a register-based follow-up study

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Version: 3  Date: 3 May 2013

Author's response to reviews:

MS: 1060463948799235 "Increased cancer mortality in diabetic people treated with insulin: a register-based follow-up study"

Dear Editor,

We are grateful on the opportunity to revise our manuscript "Increased cancer mortality in diabetic people treated with insulin: a register-based follow-up study" and to resubmit it for publication in your Journal. The reviewer’s comments on the manuscript have been most helpful and we have taken the comments into account in the revision. We attach a list of the responses to the reviewer’s comments as well as the changes made to the manuscript.

Looking forward to hear from you,

Best regards,

Erja Forssas

Reviewer: Enrique Regidor

Title:

- The title of the article has now been changed to “Increased cancer mortality in diabetic people treated with insulin: a register-based follow-up study”

Results:
-The two first paragraphs have now been eliminated.

-Table 1: Instead of adding standardized mortality rates to the table 1, we have done new figures, which are presenting more strictly the development of the mortality in the study period.

-Two important findings: mortality from cancer and mortality for cardiovascular disease:

We have now diminished the discussion part concerning cardiovascular diseases and are also hopefully expressing more clearly in which diseases the most obvious changes have happened. We found that there were overlap between the confidence intervals in mortality ratios from coronary heart diseases but no overlap was found in mortality ratios from cardiovascular diseases and from cerebrovascular diseases among non-insulin-treated diabetic people between the two periods.

Reviewer: Bendix Carstensen

1. General remarks

Data construction: we have now added to the Methods part more specific information how our data was constructed.

The main purpose of our study was to describe how the excess mortality of diabetic people has been constructed in Finland. This descriptive framework was our starting point. However, we have now done some new analyses suggested by the reviewer. In these analyses only most important variables were used: all-cause mortality, cancer mortality and cardiovascular disease mortality. We agree that more strict analyses would be useful and we hope that in the future we could also use data from other countries.

2. Specific remarks

We have now changed the text in the methods-section clearer.