Author's response to reviews

Title: The management of severe hypertension in Australian general practice

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Version: 4 Date: 1 October 2013

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

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our paper entitled ‘The management of severe hypertension in Australian general practice’. We have carefully addressed the reviewers’ comments. In what follows please find our point-by-point response to their comments.

Kind Regards,

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Reviewer’s report
Title: The management of severe hypertension in Australian general practice
Version: 3 Date: 15 August 2013
Reviewer: Edward Janus
Reviewer’s report:

Minor essential revisions

Last sentence of results - it is difficult to relate 4% and 5% further measures of SHT to table 2. Can this be done more clearly.

*These percentages appear on the third row (‘hypertension -> severe’) of Table 2. We have added ‘SHT’ to this row to make the connection between the text and the table clearer.*

SHT is still not defined in Fig 1 or its legend.

*Done*

Discussion

Absence of lipids is likely to be due to failure to measure lipids and is a behaviour issue which probably goes along with failure to follow up on BPs adequately. This could be pointed out and wherever lipids are mentioned the wording could be altered.

*A sentence has been included in the discussion section (page 12)*

A limitation is that Blood pressure control is considered as a categorical variable. Thus achieving 141/91 after initially having SHT is considered a failure while 140/90 is a success. In practice both are equally good. Further a major improvement to near normotensive is still of some use. These points should be discussed briefly. That does not detract from the main thrust of this paper as long as this point is made the rest is acceptable.
Reviewer's report
Title: The management of severe hypertension in Australian general practice
Version: 3 Date: 6 September 2013
Reviewer: Dominique Anne-Michele Cadilhac

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions

Figure 1, in the first box spell out SHT

Done

Table 1 provide median and quartile 1 and quartile 3 values in the one line e.g. median Age 48 years (25% percentile 39 years, 75% percentile 56 years). This Table should be reformatted so much easier to read as previously requested.

Done

Table 2: spell out Blood Pressure in this title

Done

Table 3 acronyms need to spelled out in full as footnotes e.g ACE and SHT. This table is still difficult for the average reader to interpret. May be add an explanatory example and state that the p value is statistically significant if <0.05

We have included definitions of acronyms as footnotes and we have referred to p<0.05 being statistically significant in the legend.