Reviewer’s report

Title: The management of severe hypertension in Australian general practice

Version: 2 Date: 17 June 2013

Reviewer: Dominique Anne-Michele Cadilhac

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript is much improved following the revisions. The following are minor revisions for the paper.

Minor Essential Revisions

1) Page 4
   • Paragraph 2, line 2: Please define abbreviation ‘US’.
   • Paragraph 2, line 7: “At the other end of the adult age band, authors of a large Australian…”
   • Paragraph 3, line 2: Guidelines stress the need for prompt follow-up…to achieve BP control (BP<140/90 mmHg) is emphasized in guidelines”.
   • Paragraph 3, line 4 “…studies of SHT management [20-22] have provided evidence that…”

2) Page 5
   • Paragraph 1, line 2: Please define abbreviation ‘GP’ on first use in main text.
   • Paragraph 1, line 3: “addition of, or changes to, antihypertensive” [add the commas as suggested because this was hard to read in its original form and is a statement made throughout the paper in several parts so please fix all in the same way]
   • Paragraph 3, line 4: The 45 patients who died in the follow-up year were excluded since they represent a <1% of the sample and may have complications or complex co-morbidity other than hypertension [you provide your rational in your response to me, but this is important information for readers so should be added, thanks].

3) Page 6
   • Paragraph 1, line 2: (1%, 1%, and 5%) [add this within text to simplify, see below point]
   • Paragraph 1, line 3: “…had missing age (1%), year of graduation (1%) and country of graduation (5%) and 1% of clinics…”
   • Paragraph 2, line 2: “(b) Additions of, or changes to, anti-hypertensive drug treatment [add commas as suggested]…”
   • Paragraph 3, line 5: Practices with less than 20 SHT patients, as well as patients for [add comma as suggested]…
4) Page 10
• Paragraph 1, line 2: ..follow-up visits, initiation of, or changes to, antihypertensive drug treatments, and BP control [add commas as suggested].
• Paragraph 1, line 3: This is the first analysis that explores the variance in the response of GPs to measures of SHT. [How does your study differ from that presented in ref 22?]
• Paragraph 2, line 7: …of patients did not receive an initiation of, or change to, anti-hypertensive drug treatment, [add commas as suggested]….

5) Page 11
• Paragraph 1, line 6: “…comorbidities, as well as other patient outcomes” [add comma as suggested]
• Paragraph 1, line 9: “…which was not available to for this study.”
• Paragraph 3: In this study more patients achieved normotension if on new or extra medicines provided at a follow-up visit. I am not sure that this point came out strongly enough in the policy implications section, but is very relevant to showing that where more intensive treatment is provided a good outcome is achieved.

6) Page 12
• Paragraph 3 (under conclusions), line 3: ..and initiation of, or changes to, antihypertensive drug treatment [add commas as suggested]….

7) Page 14
• Table 1: [Table formats could be improved…the layout is not great, also all abbreviations should be defined or avoided in Tables]

8) Page 19
• References are presented in a different Font style to the main text, please amend

9) Page 21
• Figure 1: Please define abbreviation ‘SHT’.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'