Author's response to reviews

Title: Modifiable Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors as Predictors of Dementia Death: Pooling of Ten Cohort Studies

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Professor Bent Brachvogel
Managing Editor, Journal of Negative Results in Biomedicine

Professor Bjorn R Olsen
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Negative Results in Biomedicine

Dear Professors Brachvogel and Olsen,

**MS: 1523829951122979 / Brief report / Modifiable Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors as Predictors of Dementia Death: Pooling of Ten Cohort Studies / David Batty et al. / Journal of Negative Results in BioMedicine**

Thank you for your request, sent to us via Rebecca Simmons, in which you ask for a more detailed description of the statistic testing utilised in this paper. We are happy to provide this (see red text in resubmitted document).

Additionally, we have enlarged upon selected areas of the manuscript – most notably the introduction – based on our thinking that the previous version was overly succinct. In doing so, we have remained within the word constraints of the journal.

To be frank, we think the lack of success we have experienced in publishing this manuscript in high impact journals may be ascribed to the null results: we found very limited evidence that these cardiovascular disease risk factors were related to the occurrence of dementia death. In truth, this field is one of highly discordant results.¹

An alternative explanation for our failure to yet find a home for this manuscript is the novel technique we have used, at least in the context of psychiatry. However, we have used the individual-participant meta-analysis technique – a pooling of raw data across studies rather than a reliance on the results presented in published reports – in a series of other papers,²-⁵ with other manuscripts submitted or under revision. As such, the approach is, in fact, well tested.

We hope you will give this submission careful consideration.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

David Batty
References


