Author's response to reviews

Title: Accounting for the mortality benefit of drug-eluting stents in percutaneous coronary intervention: a comparison of methods in a retrospective cohort study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Dr. Shipley,

Thank you for your thoughtful review of our manuscript titled, “Accounting for the mortality benefit of drug-eluting stents in observational studies: a comparison of methods in a retrospective cohort study.” We are pleased to accept your invitation to have our work published in *BMC Medicine*. We have supplied a revised manuscript which addresses the requests made by the reviewers. Specifically, we have included a table showing the standardized differences between groups as evidence for robustness of the 1:1 propensity-score matching, in Table 2. In order to achieve an adequate match on the basis of having all standardized differences < 10, we tightened the caliper width for the match, resulting in small changes in the effect estimates and sample size for the 1:1 match. However, the results and conclusions are not substantively changed.

With a growing emphasis on the assessment of comparative effectiveness in real world populations, the number of observational studies using such methods is likely to increase rapidly. We believe that this study is thus quite timely, and serves as a cautionary reminder of the challenges of drawing causal inferences from observational data.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

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