Author's response to reviews

Title: Oral nitrates effect on pulse pressure and arterial elasticity in patients over 65 with refractory isolated systolic hypertension.

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

In response to reviewer 1:

MAJOR

1. The manuscript has been proofread by a native-speaking copywriter.

2. Resistant hypertension is defined as uncontrolled hypertension in patients using 3 or more antihypertensive drugs (1 of which is a diuretic) at their maximum dose. We have changed the protocol to include patients taking low-dose diuretics but who are always taking ≥2 additional drugs, because most of them never use diuretics at the maximum dosage (e.g., hydrochlorothiazide 50 mg/d).

3. The study design does not involve directly observed therapy because of difficulties in administering medication every day for 3 months. We think that checking medication packaging is a sufficiently effective way of assessing adherence.

4. We have changed the explanation for arterial stiffness on page 5, according to the reviewer’s recommendations.

5. All vascular function parameters were measured with the patient in the supine position, after re-measuring BP supine (see page 10).

6. All BP measurements are trough values, taken between 8 am and 10 am, before patients take their medication (see page 10).

MINOR

1. We have changed oxide nitric for nitric oxide and ON for NO.

2. We have shortened the manuscript by removing some of the information on regulatory issues.

3. The manuscript has been proofread by a native-speaking copywriter.

In response to editorial requests:

1. We have changed the title.

2. We have removed the funding and ethical information from the abstract and placed them at the end of the manuscript.

3. We have created an “Acknowledgements” section for funding information. All the people who have contributed to this manuscript are included as authors. Also, we have introduced some physicians in the NISH group that should be included since the beginning.

Best wishes

Daniel Abad