Author’s response to reviews

Title: Serum Cholesterol Levels and Postoperative atrial fibrillation

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Version: 3
Date: 13 March 2014

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report
Title: Serum Lipid Levels and Postoperative Atrial Fibrillation
Version: 2
Date: 18 February 2014
Reviewer: Adem GULER

Reviewer's report:
Dear Editor,

I have read the manuscript titled "SERUM LIPID LEVELS AND POSTOPERATIVE ATRIAL FIBRILLATION". The authors evaluate the relations of Serum Lipid Levels and Postoperative Atrial Fibrillation in CABG patients. They found that the levels of LDL-C in the preoperative period could be predictor of AF development in the post operative period.

In my opinion, this study is valuable because one of the first studies about the correlation between the lipid levels and AF in CABG patients. I think that this study would be appropriate to be published due to bring new information to the current literature.

I recommend some revisions
1. The aim of the study and the importance of correlation AF and lipids levels should emphasize with a sentence at the end of the introduction section.
   As the reviewer stated we added a sentence at the end of the introduction section that emphasizes the importance of correlation AF and lipids and the aim of the study.

2. Spelling mistakes should be correct
   Spelling mistakes throughout the article were corrected as the reviewer indicated.

3. References were not written according to journal guidelines.
   References were rewritten according to journal guidelines.

Best regards.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
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
Reviewer's report
Title: Serum Lipid Levels and Postoperative Atrial Fibrillation
Version: 2
Date: 24 February 2014
Reviewer: Renato Alves

Reviewer's report:
GENERAL REVIEW
1- The question posed by the authors is well defined. It is a very important subject nowadays because atrial fibrillation (AF) is a complication very common in the postoperative of cardiac surgery.
2- The methods are well described and appropriate. However, in the table 2 did not see the thyroid function tests and the potassium level. I think is necessary to put them. The age is different between the groups. The group 1 that showed AF is older than group 2 and this fact could to influence starting AF. This subject could be in the discussion. I don’t understand what happened with the use of drugs, betablockers and statins, they are stopped or not? The authors need to explain better in the text!
   As the reviewer stated the thyroid function tests and potassium levels were important parameters. However, both of these parameters were not statistically significant between groups. On the other hand, at the methods part; patients with thyroid dysfunction were already excluded from the study. Therefore, we did not add these parameters in the table 2.
   We added a new phrase including the difference of age between group 1 and 2. Group 1 patients with AF were older than group 2 and this was added as the main limitation of our study.
   We continued the drug treatment, beta blocker therapy could not be stopped before surgery, since these drugs are important for mortality reduction and it was not ethical to stop these drugs before surgery. According to the study design; there was no statin loading in order to exclude their beneficial findings that already been reported in previous studies.
3- The results are clear and showed high incidence of AF. However, I would like a confirmation this incidence. Moreover, how many cases that developed AF were there of valvular cardiac surgery and revascularization of myocardium comparing another group? Because the incidence of AF is higher in valvular surgery!
   We added a sentence confirming the high incidence of post-operative AF (36%)
   No patients that developed AF underwent valvular cardiac surgery and a sentence was added in the article as an exclusion criteria.
4- I think this manuscript adhere to the relevant standard. The subject is important and there are a low number of researches about this.
5- The discussion and conclusion are supported by the data. But I’m confused when finish the discussion and start the conclusion. I put some part of conclusion in the discussion. Please to see in the text below.
   We changed the discussion and conclusion parts as the reviewer stated.
6- I think the title could be changed by “cholesterol levels and postoperative atrial fibrillation”. Because the results found. The abstract there is abbreviations, I think would be better starting abbreviations only in the introduction. Moreover, in the
text the authors put words after they have done abbreviations. They need to correct this.

The title was changed as ‘cholesterol levels and postoperative atrial fibrillation’. We changed the abbreviations in the abstract. We corrected them.

7- The writing needs to correct some sentences and words and an appropriate review because it didn’t comprehensible in some texts.

We corrected some sentences and words as the reviewer indicated.

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1- The table 2 did not show the thyroid function tests and the potassium level. I think is necessary to put them. What happened with the use of drugs, betablockers and statins, they are stopped or not? The authors need to explain better in the text! I think the triglycerides level is not correct. Please to check this, because the VLDL-c level are different.

As the reviewer stated the thyroid function tests and potassium levels were important parameters. However, both of these parameters were not statistically significant between groups. Therefore, we did not add these parameters in the table 2.

We corrected triglycerides levels in the manuscript.

2- To correct discussion and conclusion. I put in the text.

3- The abstract there is abbreviations, I think would be better starting abbreviations only in the introduction. Moreover, in the text the authors put words after they have done abbreviations.

We corrected the abbreviations throughout the article. We started using abbreviations in the introduction part.

4- The writing needs to correct some sentences and words and an appropriate review. I don’t understand the paragraph and the sentence of the reference 18 in the discussion.

We clarified the sentence including the reference 18.

5- I think except the first paragraph and the last sentence of the conclusions, all the rest should be retired and put it in the discussion.

We made these necessary changes as the reviewer indicated. We changed the conclusion part as the reviewer’s suggestions.

6- The authors always need to put dot after the magazine’s name before the year in the references.

We corrected all of the reference part.

Minor Essential Revisions
How many cases that developed AF were there of valvular cardiac surgery and revascularization of myocardium comparing another group?

Discretionary Revisions
The age is different between the groups. The group 1 that showed AF is older
than group 2 and this fact could to influence starting AF.
I think the title could be changed by “cholesterol levels and postoperative atrial fibrillation”.

We changed the name of the article according to the reviewer’s suggestions.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests
Reviewer's report
Title: Serum Lipid Levels and Postoperative Atrial Fibrillation
Version: 2 Date: 22 February 2014
Reviewer: Ali Umit Yener
Reviewer's report:
I think the article is ok
Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests: no, not

The reviewer has no suggested changes in the manuscript.
Reviewer's report
Title: Serum Lipid Levels and Postoperative Atrial Fibrillation
Version: 2 Date: 3 March 2014
Reviewer: alper ucak

Reviewer's report:
1. Although there are many studies investigating the effect of statins on atrial fibrillation after cardiac surgery, very few studies about hyperlipidemia effects. The study understood and is original.
2. In study; What type of method should be described as prospective or retrospective.
   We described the type of the method as prospective. We added this sentence at the methods part.
3. While it is instructive to evaluate more carefully the content and should be checked for spelling errors. Comments are generally meaningful. References are used in place. The total number of cases participating in the study is sufficient. Tables are seen as adequate and understandable.
   Spelling mistakes throughout the article were corrected.
4. In the introduction part; "marked as predictors of postoperative AF can be named as age, low ejection fraction, intraoperative technical Reasons, inflammatory mechanism and." sentence should be corrected as "marked as predictors of postoperative AF can be named as age, low ejection fraction, intraoperative technical Reasons, and inflammatory mechanism."
   As the reviewer stated at the introduction part the sentence was corrected as; ‘marked as predictors of postoperative AF can be named as age, low ejection fraction, intraoperative technical reasons, and inflammatory mechanism’
5. In the conclusion part; triglyceride levels of group II presented are not the same value in the table in section of the manuscript. Revised is considered to be appropriate.
   At the conclusion part, triglyceride level of group II presented in the article was corrected.

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