Author's response to reviews

Title: Interactions of commonly used dietary supplements with cardiovascular drugs: A systematic review

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

Please find attached below a list of all of the peer review comments and author responses for the submitted manuscript: *Interactions of commonly used dietary supplements with cardiovascular drugs: A systematic review.*

Please note that we are submitting both a version with tracked changes (as per your request) as well as a clean version due to the magnitude of changes that took place.

Regards,

Mohammed Toseef Ansari, M.B.B.S., M.Med.Sc., M. Phil

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The ?English and German? inclusion is still very peculiar. Would it make more sense to say the German language articles were included in addition to the standard inclusion of English language articles because Germany has a very well-developed pharmacopeia of herbs and was therefore included because of the expectation of high quality german language studies?

Authors’ response: We revised this to read: "A comparative study was eligible if: Was published in English or German; other languages were excluded due to concerns with study quality[15], or applicability[17]. We included German language publications given the well developed research and practice of dietary supplements in Germany."

Also, the two Forest plots should probably have their scales go in the same direction. As it is now the Forest plot for LDL has values to the left favoring the CV drug plus the supplement and the Forest plot for HDL has values to the right favoring the supplement plus the CV drug. This is going to confuse readers."

Authors’ response: We examined forest plots and there is no error in displaying the direction of effects. The reason for the difference between forest plots of HDL-C and LDL-C is that increased HDL-C corresponds to favorable outcome as opposed to increased LDL-C which is considered as unfavorable outcome. That is why the label for favoring is reversed for the above mentioned markers.