Author's response to reviews

Title: Drugs commonly associated with weight change: umbrella systematic review and meta-analysis (Protocol)

Authors:

Juan Pablo Domecq (domecggarces.juanpablo@mayo.edu)
Gabriela Prutsky (prutskylopez.gabriela@mayo.edu)
Zhen Wang (wang.zhen@mayo.edu)
Tarig Elraiyah (elraiyah.tarig@mayo.edu)
Juan Pablo Brito (brito.juan@mayo.edu)
Karen Mauck (mauck.karen@mayo.edu)
Mohammed H Lababidi (hanilab@gmail.com)
Aaron Leppin (leppin.aaron@mayo.edu)
Salman Fidahussein (fidahussein.salman@mayo.edu)
Larry J Prokop (prokop.larry@mayo.edu)
Victor M Montori (montori.victor@mayo.edu)
Mohamad H Murad (murad.mohammad@mayo.edu)

Version: 2 Date: 31 May 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Rochester, May 24, 2012

David Moher, Ph.D.
Paul G Shekelle, M.D, PhD
Lesley A Stewart, PhD
Editors-in-Chief
Systematic reviews
RE: Drugs commonly associated with weight change: Umbrella systematic review and meta-analysis (Protocol)

Dear Editors.

On behalf of all co-authors, I am submitting for consideration of publication in Systematic reviews our systematic review protocol entitled: Drugs commonly associated with weight change: Umbrella systematic review and meta-analysis (Protocol). In this protocol, we are describing how to conduct a systematic review aimed to address the effect of 72 different drugs on adult patient’s weight.

Reasons for publication in Systematic reviews:

1. The protocol itself is of interest to the readers of Systematic Reviews because we believe that the design we chose is somewhat novel and allows the evaluation of a large number of interventions.
2. We believe that we achieved a unique adequate balance between rigor and feasibility.
3. This design will be appropriate to other topics with similar nature (i.e., large number of interventions evaluated in a large number of Randomized Controlled Trials).
4. The focus of this protocol is on appraising and pooling randomized trials; hence, trialists are appropriate audience.
5. The results of this systematic review will help guideline developers, clinicians and patients to choose between available therapies based on their values and clinical context.

My team and I considered that Dr. Samuel Preston from university of Pennsylvania (e-mail: spreston@sas.upenn.edu) and Dr. Guy Faulkner from university of Toronto (e-mail: guy.faulkner@utoronto.ca) will be appropriate peer reviewers for this protocol. As well we agreed that Dr. Toshiaki Furukawa could be the editorial board member most closely matches with the topic of our systematic review.

All co-authors have seen and agree with the contents of the protocol and there is no financial interest to report. We certify that the submission is not under review at any other publication.

We beg your consideration of our manuscript for publication in Systematic reviews.

Sincerely yours,

Juan Pablo Domecq, MD
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, Minnesota