Author's response to reviews

Title: Protocol for a systematic review of prognostic models for the recurrence of venous thromboembolism (VTE) following treatment for a first unprovoked VTE

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Version: 7 Date: 24 September 2013

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

Re: Protocol for a systematic review of prognostic models for the recurrence of venous thromboembolism (VTE) following treatment for a first unprovoked VTE

In regard to the above titled protocol, some protocol amendments have recently been agreed with our funders, and as such we submit a revised version of the protocol with some minor amendments. The key amendment is the focussing of the review to investigate only prognostic models, not individual prognostic factors association with VTE recurrence and adverse outcomes.

This study will now focus on systematically reviewing all of the evidence on potential prognostic models for the recurrence of VTE or adverse outcomes following the cessation of therapy for a first unprovoked VTE, and to synthesise and summarise each model’s predictive accuracy.

We anticipate that the results of the review will represent a significant step toward informing clinical management of patients receiving therapy after a first unprovoked VTE. Prognostic models will be identified for the risk of VTE recurrence or adverse outcome, which will be informative for clinicians considering whether to stop or continue treatment for individuals with a first unprovoked VTE. The review will also identify areas where the evidence for or against particular prognostic models is lacking, and this will lead to recommendations for initiating additional prognostic model developments and validations.

Yours faithfully,

Joie Ensor