Author’s response to reviews

Title: Pro-Adrenomedullin predicts 10-year all-cause mortality in community-dwelling patients: a prospective cohort study

Authors:

Jonas Odermatt (jonas.odermatt@ksa.ch)
Marc Meili (marcdavid.meili@ksa.ch)
Philipp Schuetz (schuetzph@gmail.com)
Lara Hersberger (lara.hersberger@stud.unibas.ch)
Rebekka Bolliger (rebekka.bolliger@stud.unibas.ch)
Mirjam Christ-Crain (mirjam.christ@usb.ch)
Matthias Briel (matthias.briel@usb.ch)
Heiner Bucher (heiner.bucher@usb.ch)
Beat Mueller (happy.mueller@unibas.ch)

Version: 2 Date: 19 Jun 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

1. Although they note the fact that some patients did not have blood drawn, and that there is a possibility of recall bias, my comment referred to the 20% LOST to follow up rate, and the fact that those lost to follow up were different then those who did have followup. I get that followup over this period of time is really hard, and I commend them for having follow up for this long at all, but again, compared to the event rate this becomes a significant problem. So again, this really calls into question whether the findings are real, so I think tempering their statements in conclusions should really be undertaken.

Reply: We agree about these limitations and have now rephrased the conclusions in the abstract and the main paper as follows: "This posthoc analysis found an association of elevated ProADM blood levels and 10-year all-cause mortality in a primary care cohort with respiratory tract infections. Due to the methodological limitations including incomplete data regarding follow-up information and biomarker measurement, this study warrants validation in future larger studies"
2. Although they note that some patients did not have ProADM levels determined, they did not answer why it is that some did and some didn't. "Yes- why was this- blood not drawn? Not enough leftover samples? Not available for follow up? "

Reply: we did not have enough leftover sample for measurement of ProADM in these patients. This is now stated in the manuscript as follows: "The initial cohort included 458 adult patients with an ARTI, of which 167 (36.5%) had ProADM blood samples available, while the other patients had not enough leftover sample for measurement of ProADM. ". 