Author’s response to reviews

Title: Risk of hip fracture among older people using antihypertensive drugs: A nationwide cohort study

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Bergen, November 21, 2015

Dear Editor

Thank you for the valuable comments on our manuscript “Risk of hip fracture among older people using antihypertensive drugs: A nationwide cohort study” (BGTC-D-15-00038R3). Both points are addressed below, and the manuscript is revised accordingly.

Editorial requests:

1. Please clarify in the manuscript whether access to the databases you used is freely available, and if not, who gave permission to use them. Please list the permissions for each database.

   Reply: We obtained permission from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health regarding data from the Norwegian Prescription Database (08/2173); from the Norwegian Arthroplasty Register regarding data from the Norwegian Hip Fracture Registry (9 June 2009); and from Tax Norway regarding data from the Central Population Registry (2008/612430). Inserted, page 8 line 22 - page 9 line 1.

2. Please clarify the statement 'The Norwegian Directorate of Health granted an exemption from the duty of confidentiality'. To what does the confidentiality pertain to?
Reply: The Norwegian Directorate of Health granted an exemption from the duty of confidentiality regarding linkage of data from the three databases, performed by a trusted third party (Statistics Norway). Inserted, page 9 line 2-4.

We hereby resubmit our paper, and hope that it is acceptable for publication in BMJ Geriatrics.

On behalf of all authors,
Sabine Ruths