Author’s response to reviews

Title: Serum total cholesterol and risk of cardiovascular and non-cardiovascular mortality in old age: a population-based study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Editor, BMC Geriatrics

Stockholm, November 30, 2017


Editor,

This letter refers to online submission of our revised manuscript based on your decision letter dated November 23, 2017. We thank the reviewers and editor for kindly offering valuable comments. The comments and suggestions have now been fully considered, and whenever possible, carefully incorporated into the revised version, as specified below (we first copy the comments, followed by our responses).

1. We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:

https://mailfilter.sunet.se/canit/urlproxy.php?_q=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5zY2llbmNlZGlyZW5N0Lm
NvbS9yZ2llbmNlL2FydGljbGUvGlpL1MwMTY3NjI3MzE2MzMzExMjRYP3ZpYSUzRGlodW
I%3D&s=eWFqW4ubGlhbmdAa2kuc2U%3D&c=98c4da08&r=a2ktc2U%3D and
https://mailfilter.sunet.se/canit/urlproxy.php?_q=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmNiaS5ubG0ubmloLm
dVid9wdWiZWQvMjc5OTA5Nzg%3D&s=eWFqW4ubGlhbmdAa2kuc2U%3D&c=2678b0
95&r=a2ktc2U%3D and
https://mailfilter.sunet.se/canit/urlproxy.php?_q=aHR0cDovL2pvdXJuYWxzLnBsb3Mub3JnL3
Bsb3NvbmUvYXJ0aWNsZT9pZD0xMC4xMzcxL2pvdXJuYWwucG9uZS4wMTE5NTgy&s=
WqW4ubGlhbmdAa2kuc2U%3D&c=17abed51&r=a2ktc2U%3D
This overlap mainly exists in your background, methods and discussion sections

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work.

Please re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap.

Answer: We have now rephrased these sections (see background, page 3; methods, pages 4-6; discussion, pages 7-9).

2. Please can you clarify who gave consent on behalf of cognitively impaired participants. Currently you have stated "informants" provided consent - could you be more specific? i.e. a next of kin or legal counterpart

Answer: We have replaced ‘informants’ by ‘a next of kin’ (see page 10, line 18).

3. In the Funding section, please also describe the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Answer: We add one sentence into page 11, lines 10-11.

4. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of DLV as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to the listed tasks alone, does not usually justify authorship.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have:

a) made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; AND

b) been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND

c) given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; AND

d) agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.
Anyone listed as an author must be included in this section. If you choose to change your author list you will need to fill out a change in authorship form and send it by email to the Editorial office to be approved by the Editor. The form can be found here: https://mailfilter.sunet.se/canit/urlproxy.php?_q=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYmlvbWVvY2VudHJhbC5jb20vZ2V0cHVibGlzGVkL2VkaXRvcmllbCIwb2xpY2llcyNhdXRob3JzaGlw&_=eWFqdW4ubGlhbmdAa2kuc2U%3D&_=da5766c0&_r=a2ktc2U%3D.

Anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship can be acknowledged in the ‘Acknowledgements’ section.

Answer: We updated the author’s contributions, please see page 11, lines 13-16.

5. Please include a conclusions heading after your discussion

Answer: We have now added the conclusion heading (see page 9, line 25).

6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Answer: We organized the manuscript according to these requirements.

We would like again to thank our reviewers and editor for the relevant suggestions to further improve the manuscript. We hope that the paper is now acceptable for publication in the journal. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

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