Author's response to reviews

Title: Prostate cancer-specific survival among warfarin users in the Finnish Randomized Study of Screening for Prostate Cancer

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Author’s response to reviews:

Response to Editor Comments:

Editor Comments:

1. The Availability of Data and Materials section refers to the raw data used in your study; presenting tables and figures is not sufficient to state that all data is contained within the manuscript and additional files. Please only use this statement if you have indeed provided all raw data on which your study is based. We strongly encourage all authors to share their raw data, either by providing it in a supplementary file or depositing it in a public repository and providing the details on how to access it in this section. If you do not wish to share your data, please clearly state this in this section along with a justification. For more information and a list of suitable availability statements, please see our submission guidelines:
https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#availability+of+data+and+materials

Response:

We have rephrased “Avalability of data and material” section to address this comment as follows:

“Permission to use the entire data has been granted personally for this specific study, thus we are not allowed to make the entire data publicly available without permission. Limited data (i.e variables used for the analyses) can be obtained upon reasonable request.”
2. Please include a statement in the Availability of Data and Materials section regarding the approval for use of the third party registry data. If the dataset is publicly available, please provide information about where it can be accessed.

Response:

We have added the following paragraph under “Availability of data and material” section:

"Each Administrator and Information Commissioner of the used registries processed our request to use the data and granted a personal permission. If desired, similar permissions can be applied from the Finnish Social Insurance Institution (available at: http://www.kela.fi/web/en/research) and the National Institute for Health and Welfare (available at: https://www.thl.fi/en/web/thlfi-en/statistics/information-for-researchers )."

3. In the Author contributions section, please use initials instead of full names.

Response:

We have revised this section as suggested and it now appears as:

“Study Concept: KPTT, MTJ, AA
Study Design: KPTT, MTJ, AA
Data Acquisition: KPTT, MTJ, TK, TK, TTLJ, AA
Quality Control of Data: KPTT, MTJ, TK, TK, TTLJ, AA

All authors have read and approved the manuscript.”

4. Figure files should contain only the image/graphic, as well as any associated keys/annotations. If titles/legends are present within the figure files, please remove them. Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of ‘Figure Legends’ after the References.

Response:

We have done accordingly and to avoid misconceptions we have put the figures in their own files. The Additional Files section appears now as follows:

1) “Supplementary Table 1” includes the following data:

Supplementary Table 1 - ATC codes for anticoagulant drugs included in the study
2) “Figure 1” includes the following data

Figure 1 - Pre-diagnostic subgroup analysis of warfarin usage compared to anticoagulant non-users

3) “Figure 2” includes the following data:

Figure 2 - Post-diagnostic subgroup analysis of warfarin usage compared to anticoagulant non-users

4) “Supplementary Figure 1” includes the following data:

Supplementary Figure 1 - Pre-diagnostic subgroup analysis between users of warfarin and other anticoagulant drugs

5) “Supplementary Figure 2” includes the following data:

Supplementary Figure 2 - Post-diagnostic subgroup analysis between users of warfarin and users of other anticoagulant drugs

6) “Supplementary Table 2 and 3” includes the following data:

Supplementary Table 2 - Pre-diagnostic analysis of combined anticoagulant drug usage stratified by number of Defined Daily Doses (DDD), duration and intensity of usage. Age-adjusted and multivariable-adjusted hazard ratios (95% CI) related to all PCa deaths.

Supplementary Table 3 - Post-diagnostic results for combined anticoagulant usage. Age-adjusted, multivariable-adjusted and lag-time hazard ratios (95% CI) related to all PCa deaths.

7) “Supplementary Figure 3” includes the following data:

Supplementary Figure 3 - Subgroup analysis of pre-diagnostic combined anticoagulant usage compared to non-users

8) “Supplementary Figure 4” includes the following data:

Supplementary Figure 4 - Subgroup analysis of combined anticoagulant usage compared to non-users in post-diagnostic setting.
5. Supplementary Figure 5 is included but it is not cited or presented in the Results section. Please refer to Supplementary Figure 5 in the text of the manuscript. Please also include Supplementary Figure 5 in the "Additional files" section.

Response:

Thank you for this notion. Numbering of the figures changed after formation of the previously provided supplementary figure file but prior to submission to BMC and thus the misconception. Previously what now appears as Figure 2 used to be Supplementary Figure 1 and thus the rest of the Supplementary Figures when numbered from 2 to 5 but now appear as 1 to 4. Thus, this submission does not include Supplementary Figure 5. References in the Results section were and are in line with the present figure titles. The files of the Figures are now separate as presented in response to Editor Comment number 4 to avoid any misconceptions.