Author's response to reviews

Title: Validity of gout diagnosis in Swedish primary and secondary care

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To the editor of BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders

Please consider the original article “Validity of gout diagnosis in Swedish primary and secondary care” for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

Gout is an increasing clinical challenge not only due to a rising prevalence but also because of the deficits in clinical management. This, in combination with the arrival of new, potent and expensive treatments for gout, requires data on prevalence and treatment of good quality. And for this, diagnostic validation is crucial.

In this manuscript we demonstrate a relatively high validity for gout diagnosis in both a primary and secondary care setting, when requiring ≥2 visits to physician with an ICD-code for gout, having the clinically based recent Mexico criteria and Netherland algorithm as golden standards. Furthermore, the diagnosis of gout is performed on clinical parameters rather than MSU crystal identification in both primary and secondary care.

None of the authors report any conflicts of interest.

The manuscript has not been submitted or is under consideration in any other publication.

Regards

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