Author's response to reviews

Title: Renal function during long-term lithium treatment: a cross-sectional and longitudinal study.

Authors:

Alberto Bocchetta (bocchett@unica.it)
Raffaella Ardua (ardau.raf@tiscali.it)
Tiziana Fanni (tfanni@unica.it)
Claudia Sardu (cla.sardu@tiscali.it)
Doloretta Piras (lorettapiras@gmail.com)
Antonello Pani (antonellopani@aob.it)
Maria Del Zompo (delzompo@unica.it)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To: Lin Lee, PhD
Senior Editor BMC Medicine
BioMed Central
Floor 6, 236 Gray's Inn Road
London, WC1X 8HB UK

Dear Editor,

These are our responses to the reviewers:

**Reviewer George Kirov.**
Major point: The graphs do show the survival of the whole sample, as stated in the Methods. Thus, the reader can have an idea of the proportion of patients reaching stage 3a or 3b. For example, after 25 years 0.5 reached stage 3a, etc. In any case, a clarification was added in the Methods: “The median time to reach the different eGFR stages was calculated, in the whole sample, through Kaplan-Meier method. According to this method, in cases when the stage under consideration had not been reached, data were censored at the last follow-up visit”.
Minor points: 1. the paper by Tredjet et al. was referenced (# 17) with a sentence added in the Discussion; 2. the Discussion was shortened modifying the last paragraph, as we agree it might distract from the main findings.

**Reviewer Matthew Jose**
Points 1 and 2: We explained better in the Methods which variables had been included in the multivariate analysis. In the design of the study, we opted for well defined variables (age, gender, duration of lithium treatment). The quality of data regarding other risk factors would have been worse (for example, smoking habit or use of NSAIDs would have been based on “yes or not” questions rather than number of cigarettes or NSAID administration over time). On the other hand, data on hypertension or metabolic comorbidities would have required more complicated evaluation regarding years since onset, adequately treated or not, etc.).
Point 3: We agree that the effect of lithium concentration may be relevant. We have planned to address it in another study, as stated in a sentence added in the Discussion (“We have planned to investigate the effect of lithium concentration in another account”).

Yours sincerely

Alberto Bocchetta, MD
Department of Biomedical Sciences
University of Cagliari, Italy