Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparison of statins for secondary prevention in patients with ischemic stroke or transient ischemic attack: a systematic review and network meta-analysis

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dr. Lin Lee
Editor, BMC Medicine

Milan, 25 February 2019

Dear Dr. Lee,

We are uploading a tracked version of our revised manuscript entitled “Comparison of statins for secondary prevention in patients with ischemic stroke or transient ischemic attack: a systematic review and network meta-analysis”.

We addressed the additional comments and suggestions of Reviewer #1, and added a Table with all row data used in the present review as requested by the editorial policies of BMC Medicine.

We hope the paper will now be suitable for publication in BMC Medicine.
Please find below our point-by-point reply to the comments by the Reviewer.

With best regards,

Irene Tramacere on behalf of all co-authors

Reviewer reports:

Reviewer #1: You say that you have replaced "gender" with "sex", but "gender" still appears in the text and in one of the tables.

Throughout the manuscript, "gender" should be changed to "sex":

WHO definitions: http://www.who.int/gender/whatisgender/en/

"Sex" refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women.

"Gender" refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.

We double checked the entire manuscript to confirm that the term “gender” has been replaced with “sex” throughout the text and in all tables.

In your discussion of inhibition of CYP3A4 you have not made it clear that the problem with simvastatin and lovastatin is that they are only 5% bioavailable, so plasma levels (AUC) increases 15-fold; atorvastatin is 50% bioavailable, so plasma levels "only" double with potent inhibitors of CYP3A4. It is not only macrolides and grapefruit that are potent inhibitors of CYP3A4; there are many drugs that are potent inhibitors of CYP3A4. You should reference Bailey et al.[1]


As suggested by the reviewer, we modified the paragraph on drug pharmacokinetic properties in the Discussion section for added clarity (Discussion section, lines 381-388, pages 16-17).
Editorial Policies:

For the 'Availability of data and materials' section, please provide information about where the data supporting your findings can be found. We encourage authors to deposit their datasets in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate), or to be presented within the manuscript and/or additional supporting files. Please note that identifying/confidential patient data should not be shared. Authors who do not wish to share their data must confirm this under this sub-heading and also provide their reasons. For further guidance on how to format this section, please refer to BioMed Central's editorial policies page (see links below).

We added a Table to the Additional file, which provides the entire dataset with the row data used within the present review (Table S11 in the Additional file 1), and modified the 'Availability of data and materials' section accordingly.