**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Is resistant hypertension an independent predictor of all-cause mortality in individuals with type 2 diabetes? A prospective cohort study

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 27 Jan 2019

**Reviewer:** Andrew Collier

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting study investigating the role of resistant hypertension as an independent risk factor for all-cause mortality in individuals with type 2 diabetes. It is a complicated read and on occasions a little difficult to follow all the acronyms. However, I think that is something that would be very difficult to improve.

My main criticism is in the title - as they state in the last sentence of the abstract - "Less stringent BP goals may be preferable in high-risk patients with type 2 diabetes". This seems to contradict the title. The authors would be better adding in an "Is resistant hypertension……" to the title.

As the authors state management of hypertension is bedevilled with "apparent resistant hypertension" and there will always be issues with medication non-adherence, "white coat hypertension" etc. but this is discussed in the paper.

I would take slight issue with the third and fourth sentences of the fourth paragraph of the discussion. The authors cannot presume that treatment of hypertension in patients with untreated or uncontrolled hypertension had been a recent diagnosis and would have been treated aggressively thereafter.

I realise that dyslipidaemia and statin therapy would have been included in model 1 but it would have been interesting to know how many patients were on statin therapy.

The other issue with this study is that the results feel counterintuitively wrong and negative studies can be difficult to publish.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I am in the process of submitting a paper with similar findings in relation to hypertension although the remit of our research is much broader.

**Statement on potential review bias**

Please complete a statement on potential review bias, considering the following questions:

1. Did you co-author any publication with an author of this manuscript in the last 5 years?

2. Are you currently or recently affiliated at the same institution as an author of this manuscript?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I did not publish with these authors in the last 5 years and also meet the affiliation criteria'. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

No

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal