Author’s response to reviews

Title: The effect of glucocorticoid therapy on mortality in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and concomitant type II diabetes: a retrospective cohort study.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Athwal,

Thank you for your comments. We have responded to your comments below:

Assistant Editor Comments:

1. Consent for publication

We note that you have not included a ‘Consent for publication’ section in the Declarations. Consent for publication refers to consent for the publication of identifying images or other personal or clinical details of participants that compromise anonymity. Seeing as this is not applicable to your manuscript please state “Not Applicable” in this section.

Response: Apologies for missing this, a consent for publication statement has been added.
2. Funding

In the Funding section, please also describe the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Response: The following statement has been added to the funding statement: "The funder was not involved in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data or in writing the manuscript."

3. Authors' Contributions

-- We have noted that author JH and ML are missing in the listed authors' contributions. The individual contributions of ALL authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section. Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found here:

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-- Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship).

Currently, the contributions of authors [MM] do not automatically qualify them for authorship. In the section “Authors’ contributions”, please provide further clarifications on their contributions, and see our guidelines for authorship below.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. Authors are expected to fulfil the criteria below (adapted from McNutt et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Feb 2018, 201715374; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1715374115; licensed under CC BY 4.0):

Each author is expected to have made substantial contributions to the conception OR design of the work; OR the acquisition, analysis, OR interpretation of data; OR the creation of new software used in the work; OR have drafted the work or substantively revised it
AND to have approved the submitted version (and any substantially modified version that involves the author's contribution to the study);

AND to have agreed both to be personally accountable for the author's own contributions and to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work, even ones in which the author was not personally involved, are appropriately investigated, resolved, and the resolution documented in the literature.

Acquisition of funding, collection of data or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not usually justify authorship.

Anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship can be acknowledged in the ‘Acknowledgements’ section.

Response: The author contribution statement states that "All authors interpreted the data." The last sentence has been updated to "All authors critically revised the manuscript, approved the final version and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work." Therefore we believe all authors meet the criteria for authorship.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor William G Dixon