

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

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Retrospective Study

Metformin associated lactic acidosis in Auckland City Hospital 2005 to 2009

Imad Haloob, Janak R de Zoysa

Response to reviewers:

Reviewer 00503179

This paper comprises a retrospective analysis of the incidence of Metformin associated lactic acidosis (MALA). The population was around 400,000 inhabitants living in Auckland around Auckland City Hospital, and the period was between July 2005 and July 2009. The analysis has been well performed. Key results were an incidence of MALA of 19.46 per 100,000 patient year exposure and a relative risk of lactic acidosis in patients on Metformin around 13-14 compared to the general population. The scientific problem is clearly presented in introduction. Subject and methods are adequately described. The results are presented clearly with informative tables and a figure. The discussion is relevant. To sum up, interesting information about the occurrence and clinical course of MALA.

Reply: Thank you.

Reviewer 00503002

This is a well written retrospective report on a clinically relevant issue of metformin associated lactic acidosis. It adds to the literature and describes the incidence and clinical outcomes of MALA in a specific region in New Zealand. It only needs minor changes for acceptance for publication. Changes, suggestions and clarifications needed from me are tracked in the document I have uploaded. Please see the uploaded manuscript with tracked changes and comments.

Reply: Thank you. Changes have been made as suggested and are detailed below:

Page 3

The units have been revised in the results section of the abstract.

The grading of CKD has been changed as suggested in the results section of the abstract.

Page 6

The term clinical decision support has been removed and has been replaced with the phrase "a health information technology system".

Page 6

Pure metabolic acidosis has been removed and clarified by adding: "low bicarbonate and a low PCO₂. Patients with a mixed respiratory and metabolic acidosis were excluded."

Page 7

The word pure has been removed.

Page 8

We have clarified the patients who needed dialysis and who died.

Page 9.

As suggested the word "that" has been changed to "than".

Page 19

As suggested "ml" has been changed to "mL" in Table 1.

Reviewer 00351120

Study design was not clearly given.

Reply: The design of the study, a retrospective case notes review, is stated in the methods of the abstract. Details of this are stated in the text under methods. Please note the comments from reviewer 00503179 about the study design.

Reviewer 00503286

The paper "Metformin associated lactic acidosis in Auckland City Hospital 2005 to 2009" should be published in WJN, after minor corrections with the editor.

Reply: Thank you.