

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

October 7th, 2013

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 4435-review.doc).

Title: Secondary prevention of ischaemic stroke. An update on medical and surgical treatments.

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Neurology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 4435

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer 1

This review focused on secondary prevention of ischemic stroke, summarized recent clinical trials, with emphasis on early and long-term prevention. Most of the information is not novel. Below are my comments.

1. The concept of early secondary prevention needs to be clearly defined. The combined antiplatelet therapy for early secondary prevention needs to be discussed. More information is needed in the sections of Glycemic control, Lipid lowering agents, and Antihypertensive agents. Are there any differences in these aspects between early and long-term secondary prevention?

R: we thank the Reviewer for these comments. Text has been modified accordingly (please, see pages 7-10). We arbitrarily defined early secondary prevention as any treatment started within hours or few days, without a better definition, given the differences in studies regarding this topic. We detailed combined antiplatelet strategies proposed by trials. We added more information regarding glycemic control, lipid lowering agents and antihypertensives, especially in long-term secondary prevention, given the paucity of data in acute treatment.

2. Anti-inflammatory strategies, carotid endarterectomy and carotid-artery stenting should be discussed in this review.

R: the role of carotid revascularization procedures in the secondary prevention of ischemic stroke was discussed in the new version of the manuscript (please, see pages 24-26). As to the anti-inflammatory strategies, although we do not dispute the fact that they are an interesting potential new approach to stroke prevention, we're quite reluctant to include them in the present review as there are no formal recommendations on their use, so far. In this regard, our idea of not including this topic in a review article because of what mentioned above was discussed with the Journal Editor before re-submission.

3. This review article needs language polishing.

R: language has been checked

Reviewer 2

This is a didactic manuscript on stroke secondary prevention. The references are accurate, tables are informative. I suggest only minor point of revisions before acceptance. Although as stated in the introduction surgery and endovascular treatment are beyond the scope of the review, the authors may comment on what is considered "the best medical therapy" in particular condition as intracranial and carotid hemodynamic stenosis or patent foramen ovale. For example, in current clinical practice, in case of arteries stenosis blood pressure is not adequately lowered because of concerns regarding cerebral perfusion. Is this practice supported by evidence?

R: thanks for this comment. As requested by Reviewer 1 we extended our discussion and included also data and comments on surgical and endovascular approaches to stroke prevention. Recommendations (and/or prevailing ideas in the absence of evidence-based data) on the most appropriate medical treatment options in these cases, were included, as well as treatment options in stroke patients with patent foramen ovale.

Reviewer 3.

This is an appropriate overview to understand the secondary prevention of stroke.

3 References and typesetting have been corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Neurology*.

Sincerely yours,



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