

Author's response to reviews

Title: Arrhythmia-provoking factors and symptoms at the onset of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation. A study based on interviews with 100 patients seeking hospital assistance

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1

To the Editor
BMC Cardiovascular Disorders

Faculty of Medicine
Department of Cardiology, Anders Hansson, MD

Re: "Arrhythmia-provoking factors and symptoms at the onset of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation. A study based on interviews with 100 patients seeking hospital assistance" by Hansson A et al.

Point-by point response

Reviewer John Godtfredsen:

- The reference *Parkinson J* et al is added (page 3)
- The reference regarding the modern classification of atrial fibrillation is updated (page 3)
- Main points on the structure and basic questions are now mentioned in the methods section (page 4)
- All 100 patients completed the data by personal interviews by one of the authors (page 4)
- The vast majority of all patients were recruited during two periods of totally 14 months (page 4)
- The reference *Allessie MA* et al is added. No echo-data are available for most of the patients. Patients with hypertension are commented upon in limitations (page 10).
- Table headings are completed
- Weariness is converted to tiredness (page 5)
- Heavy meals: Large meals was identified by 3% (table 2)
- The group as a whole had no impaired QOL
- The material was not taken consecutively, but randomness was favoured by lack of a systematic inclusion mechanism (page 10).
- Written English is extensively edited.
- Figure 3 has important information and we want to have it in the present form.

Reviewer Andreas Schuebert:

- Comment about relative young age of the patients group are added in the limitation (page 10)
- The text is completed with why the patients searched hospital assistance (page 3)
- For some patients it was the first hospital admission but for the most patients it was not (page 4).
- The question at how many times the patients have seeked hospital assistance was not asked.
- Regarding treatment, please see table 1.
- Stress was not defined by the patients and it can both concern private affaires and business (page 5).
- Questions about time delay between the onset of the trigger and the subsequent onset of the atrial fibrillation episode was not asked (page 6).
- Many patients developed avoidance strategies but they only answered the questionnaire at one time.

Yours Sincerely,

Anders Hansson
MD