

In their manuscript on statin use by persons at low risk of cardiovascular disease the authors raise an important and relevant issue. Ever since the introduction of HMGcoA-reductase inhibitors discussions on the proper indications for statin use, their cost-effectiveness in various (sub)groups of patients, the benefit-harm ratio etc. have been ongoing. The landmark paper by Wald and Law (BMJ 2003) has added to these discussions by stating that, on a population level, all people over age 55 years would benefit from a polypill, with a statin as one of the main components. The broadening of the area of indications for statins to people even at low cardiovascular risk, on the other hand, has been subject of firm debate among scientists and doctors around the world, sometimes explaining the same evidence in opposite ways.

The notable twist made by the Cochrane reviewers in their 2013 update therefore is of pivotal importance and could potentially have great impact on upcoming guidelines on CV risk management worldwide, with great effects not only on health, but also on costs. The authors of the current manuscript question the underlying evidence of the Cochrane, extracted from the 2012 CTT meta-analysis. Although an obviously one-sided view on this matter, they make -to my opinion- a very reasonable case and quite an in depth overview, given the word limit and aim of the analysis-article, of all relevant aspects.

Regarding their comments on all-cause mortality I would suggest to have the Table they've reconstructed from the CTT data reviewed by a statistician as I cannot fully check the validity of the methods they used in doing so.

Their over-all conclusion that focus on facilitating transition to healthier life style habits, in stead of 'wasting time and resources' on endlessly (measuring and) discussing cholesterol numbers and statin use, very much appeals to me, especially in low risk individuals.

Opponents will certainly react with dissenting opinions, but that enhances scientific and public debate on this matter.

The authors have put together a very well written paper that deserves publication.

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