

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

Please find new version of manuscript with 95% confidence intervals added per item 1 in your letter.

Regarding item 2, I direct your attention to the statements contained under the heading "Acknowledgments, Competing Interests, Funding and all other required statements" and reproduced below my signature for your convenience. I believe this covers funding and competing interests. The original manuscript submission also contains ICMJE COI statements for each author. I have attached to this submission an updated COI form for Barbara Decastro (the previous COI statements for the authors remain up to date).

Under this heading have added the following copyright language:

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We hope that this answers any remaining questions and look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Regards,

Gary Evoniuk

Existing text in manuscript:

The authors acknowledge the assistance of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Medical Writing Team in classifying study outcomes and WNS Global Services, Knowledge Centre for verification and formatting of publication data, both of which were paid for by GSK. TCS provided a variety of services to GSK but had neither direct involvement in the conduct of studies included in this cohort, nor any knowledge of their publication status. Data underlying these analyses are available as a supplemental data tool attached to this submission.

All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form. All four authors were employees and shareholders in GSK at the time this research was conducted. GSK sponsored the >1000 individual studies described in this analysis, paid the salaries of the four named authors and funded the services acknowledged above, but was not otherwise involved in the project conception or execution. GE conceived the project and its design, supervised the collection of data and its analysis, prepared the first draft of this manuscript and led its critical revisions. BAM participated in the collection of data and its analysis and interpretation, and contributed critical revisions to the manuscript. BDC participated in the collection of data and its analysis and interpretation, and contributed critical revisions to the manuscript. JS contributed to data analysis and interpretation as well as critical revisions to the manuscript. All four authors assume accountability as individuals for the final manuscript and its contents. As lead author and guarantor, GE affirms that this manuscript is an honest, accurate and transparent account of the research being reported, that no important aspects have been omitted, and that any discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained. As a meta-analysis of previously completed (and registered) human research, the current analysis did not require study registration, ethics committee approval or informed consent (the latter were obtained for the individual studies contained in the analysis).

1. [coi_disclosure BDC Feb 2017.pdf](#) [PDF](#)