

Dear Dr. Loder,

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript. We respect your decision, but we believe our manuscript deserves re-consideration.

There have been more than 100,000 clinical trials being published annually from mainland China, recruiting more than 4,000,000 patients. Despite of the sheer quantity, many of those are redundant and unethical. Such clinical trials waste resources, distort evidence, and hurt patients. As pointed out in the article, those clinical trials have cost the lives of hundreds of patients with coronary artery disease by depriving them of statins as standard practice. We believe the situation may be much worse over the entire clinical research community, and such practice likely will continue without raising awareness to the situation.

It is urgent to reform China's system to protect patients from redundant and unethical clinical trials, starting from revealing the current situation. To raise wide concerns among stakeholders to push the reform, we need help from a journal with high international impact such as the *BMJ*.

This article has great potential for health policy, and will be of interest to a wide range of researchers and policy makers, including those from mainland China, those who participate in evidence synthesis related to clinical trials from China, and those from other developing countries where the similar challenge arises. We believe the value of our article matches the philosophy of the *BMJ* very well.

Thank you very much for re-considering this manuscript!

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