In Reply

CRISTINA BOSETTI,^a VALENTINA ROSATO,^b DANILO BUNIATO,^a ANTONELLA ZAMBON,^c CARLO LA VECCHIA,^{a,b} GIOVANNI CORRAO^c

^aDepartment of Epidemiology, IRCCS – Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche “Mario Negri” Milan, Italy; ^bDepartment of Clinical Medicine and Community Health, Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy; ^cDepartment of Statistics and Quantitative Methods, Section of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Public Health, Università Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy

Disclosures of potential conflicts of interest may be found at the end of this article.

Regarding thiazolidinediones and cancer, we ran the sensitivity analyses suggested by Dr. de Vries et al. despite that data from the three studies [1–3] were not totally overlapping.

The pooled relative risk (RR) for bladder cancer for any thiazolidinedione (TZD) use changed from 1.13 (95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.05–1.23) to 1.12 (95% CI: 1.03–1.22) after the study by Azoulay et al. [1] was excluded and to 1.13 (95% CI: 1.04–1.23) after excluding the study by Wei et al. [2]. With reference to pioglitazone, the pooled RR changed from 1.20 (95% CI: 1.07–1.34) to 1.18 (95% CI: 1.05–1.32) after excluding the study by Azoulay et al. [1] and to 1.20 (95% CI:

1.04–1.39) after excluding the study by Wei et al. [2]. With reference to all cancers, the RR remained 0.96 (95% CI: 0.91–1.01) after any of the three studies was excluded [1–3].

The limited change in the RR for bladder cancer is not surprising, because the two studies together [1, 2] accounted for about 10% of the weight of the studies of bladder cancer included in the meta-analysis [4], and the three studies [1–3] accounted for about 3.5% of all cancer sites.

DISCLOSURES

The authors indicated no financial relationships.

REFERENCES

1. Azoulay L, Yin H, Filion KB et al. The use of pioglitazone and the risk of bladder cancer in people with type 2 diabetes: Nested case-control study. *BMJ* 2012;344:e3645.
2. Wei L, MacDonald TM, Mackenzie IS. Pioglitazone and bladder cancer: A propensity score matched cohort study. *Br J Clin Pharmacol* 2013;75:254–259.
3. Bodmer M, Meier C, Krahenbuhl S et al. Long-term metformin use is associated with decreased risk of breast cancer. *Diabetes Care* 2010;33:1304–1308.
4. Bosetti C, Rosato V, Buniato D et al. Cancer risk for patients using thiazolidinediones for type 2 diabetes: A meta-analysis. *The Oncologist* 2013;18:148–156.

Correspondence: Carlo La Vecchia, M.D., Department of Epidemiology, Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche “Mario Negri,” Via La Masa, 19, 20156 Milano, Italy. Telephone: 39 0239014527; Fax: 39 0233200231; E-Mail: carlo.lavecchia@marionegri.it Received June 12, 2013; accepted for publication July 25, 2013. ©AlphaMed Press 1083-7159/2013/\$20.00/0 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1634/theoncologist.2013-0216>