

## **Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** The hereditary angioedema burden of illness study in Europe (HAE-BOIS-Europe): background and methodology

### **Authors:**

Anette Bygum MD ([Anette.Bygum@ouh.regionsyddanmark.dk](mailto:Anette.Bygum@ouh.regionsyddanmark.dk))  
Emel Aygören-Pürsün MD ([Aygoeren-Puersuen@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:Aygoeren-Puersuen@em.uni-frankfurt.de))  
Teresa Caballero MD, PhD ([mteresa.caballero@idipaz.es](mailto:mteresa.caballero@idipaz.es))  
Kathleen Beusterien MPH ([Kathy.Beusterien@oxfordoutcomes.com](mailto:Kathy.Beusterien@oxfordoutcomes.com))  
Shadi Gholizadeh MSc ([shadigholizadeh@gmail.com](mailto:shadigholizadeh@gmail.com))  
Patience Musingarimi ([Patience.Musingarimi@viropharma.com](mailto:Patience.Musingarimi@viropharma.com))  
Suzanne Wait PhD ([Suzanne@shwhealth.co.uk](mailto:Suzanne@shwhealth.co.uk))  
Henrik Boysen ([h.boysen@haei.org](mailto:h.boysen@haei.org))

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over

11 April 2012

Ms Wella Valenzuela  
The BioMed Central Editorial Team

Dear Dr. Valenzuela,

Thank you for forwarding comments on MS: 2310018606324690: The hereditary angioedema burden of illness study in Europe (HAE-BOIS- Europe): background and methodology. We have revised the manuscript per the comments as detailed below.

**Reviewer #1's report**

*It would be useful to justify the size of the study sample considered, and to provide a more formal estimate of it.*

*Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests*

We have inserted a new paragraph clarifying the sample size rationale (page 10; 1<sup>st</sup> full paragraph). Specifically, we have added the following as well as three new references:

*“Consistent with other burden of illness studies of rare conditions in Europe [21,22], the target sample size is 150. This sample size is sufficient to identify key impacts of HAE. The plan is to include equal numbers (n=50) from each country, ensuring that each country-specific sample is generalizable through random sampling. For the telephone interviews, the target sample size is 30 patients with HAE (10 per country). Previous qualitative research has found that after twelve interviews, between 88 and 92% of themes can be identified [23].”*

**Reviewer #2's report**

*This well-designed multicenter cross-sectional study will provide us useful data about the clinical, economic and health related quality of life impact of hereditary angioedema. This rare, but potentially life-threatening disease is seldom recognized in some countries. This European study will serve as a guiding tool for clinicians, patients and health authorities and raise awareness of HAE. This present article describes the development and plans for implementation of this multi-country European study and raises our suspicion about its future findings.*

*Minor revision: Methods- recruitment section*

*Page 10- the authors can describe how they have calculated the required sample size per country considering different population densities of these three countries.*

*Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field*

Please see response to Reviewer #1 above.

We hope that this revision satisfactorily address the comments. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Beusterien