Author's response to reviews

Title: Additive scales in degenerative disease - introducing a scaling factor rather than calculating effect sizes

Authors:

Matthias W Riepe (matthias.riepe@uni-ulm.de)
David Wilkinson (david.wilkinson@nhs.net)
Hans Förstl (Hans.Foerstl@lrz.tu-muenchen.de)
Andreas Brieden (andreas.brieden@unibw.de)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:

We are grateful for the opportunity to improve and clarify the main points of the manuscript on grounds of the helpful suggestions and comments of the reviewers. We marked the changes in yellow in the revised manuscript.

**Reviewer 1:**

Ad 1  The basic idea of the current manuscript has been backed up empirically in the meantime (Riepe et al. Dement. Geriatr. Cogn. Disorders 2011; 31: 233 – 238). We included this as reference #26 in the manuscript.

Ad 2  We extended the discussion to give a more balanced view on meta-analyses. (cf. Page 14, line 13 – page 1520).

Ad 3  We changed the title as suggested.

Ad 4  As requested we structured the abstract with subheadings and rephrase to improve harmony of title, main body, and conclusions.

Ad 5  As suggested we replaced ‘composite endpoints’ with ‘multidimensional additive scales’ in the paragraph mentioned and throughout the manuscript.

Ad 6  We modified the conclusion.

Ad 7  We addressed the limitations of the study (page 14, line 18 – page 15, line 3).

**Reviewer 2:**

As also requested by reviewer #1 we resolved the mismatch of focusing on meta-analyses in the title and focusing on additive scales in the manuscript by changing the title and rephrasing some parts of the manuscript.

As also addressed by reviewer #1 we extended the discussion to improve the focus on the scientific problem addressed in the manuscript.

We would be grateful if the revised manuscript would be considered for publication as a Research article in *BMC Medical Research Methodology*.

Yours sincerely,

Matthias Riepe