Author's response to reviews

Title: Automated inter-rater reliability assessment and electronic data collection in a multi-center breast cancer study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Editor  
BMC Medical Research Methodology  

5/24/2007  

Dear Editor,  

We are re-submitting our revised manuscript titled, “Automated inter-rater reliability assessment and electronic data collection in a multi-center breast cancer study,” for publication in your Medical Research Methodology online journal. We provide below the response to the concern by the reviewer.  

Thank you very much for your consideration.  

Sincerely,  

Soe Soe Thwin  

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REVIEWER 1 (Ronald Lagoe)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
This reviewer has still encountered some problems identifying a response to comment #1. The material referenced by the authors appears to be in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Results section. The authors have adequately described their strategy for data abstraction across the sites of the study. I would still suggest that the authors state that there were no control or intervention strategies in the study. This could be done in one sentence.

COMMENT

The Methods section, paragraph 2, has been modified to include the statement, “There were no control or intervention strategies in this study. We describe the variability in electronically available data across six sites and report efficiencies gained from implementing an electronic data collection (EDC) instead of the originally proposed paper-based data collection.”
REVIEWER 2 (Elizabeth Staton)

1. Please spell out “percent agreement” instead of using “% agreement” in text.

Response
We have spelled out “%agreement” as “percent agreement”

2. Second paragraph, page 6: “whereas” is one word

Response
We have made the correction for “whereas” to read as one word.


Response
We have added the word ‘paper’ as suggested.

4. Since your research sites were within the U.S., consider adopting the American usage of quotation marks: double quotation marks around “front end” and “back end” instead of single quotation marks. See p. 220 of 9th edition AMA Manual of Style (section 6.6.7) or http://www.writersblock.ca/tips/monthtip/tipapr99.htm for explanation of difference.

Response
We have replaced single quotation marks with double quotation marks.

5. Consider not using the abbreviation “BMC” (Boston Medical Center) in the text, given that this will be published in a BMC (Biomed Central) journal.

Response
We have adjusted the text to spell out Boston Medical Center instead of using abbreviations, BMC.