Author’s response to reviews

Title: Many Missed Opportunities for Earlier Diagnosis Occur in Patients Diagnosed with Colorectal Cancer

Authors:

Terry L Wahls (Terry.Wahls@va.gov)
Ika Peleg (Ika-Peleg@ouhsc.edu)

Version: 5 Date: 5 March 2009

Author’s response to reviews: see over
March 5, 2009

Dear BMC BioMed Central Editorial Board:

A) Reply to Dr. Weller:

1) **Data extraction:** a) During the study period all medical records at the Iowa City VAMC were already in a state-of-the-art electronic medical record system. There were no paper charts. Thus the data source can be regarded as complete. This is the major advantage of our study. b) The data sources are listed in the methodology section. They were provider progress notes, nurse notes, appointments, laboratory orders, the imaging reports, clinical pathology reports, and anatomic pathology reports. c) The dependent and independent variables used in the study are listed in Data collection sections. All these variables were extracted from the electronic medical records system.

2) **Poor grammar and typographical errors:** The manuscript has been reviewed and revised both by the editor for the Medical College of the University of Oklahoma, and the editor for the Department of Medicine of the University of Iowa. If the editor at the Journals still deems it inadequate, we will engage an outside editor of your choosing.

3) **Additional citations:** a) Dr. Korsgaard study is questionnaire based. Both Dr. Ramos’ and Dr. Mitchell’s studies were not referenced, as they both are literature reviews of outcome variables than have little relevance to this study.

B) Reply Dr. Grazzini:
We agree with his comments.

In summary, we agree with Dr. Weller that at this point it is an editorial decision whether to publish the study or not. When making this decision, please be reminded that all three reviewers agreed that it is an article of importance in its field, is publishable, and will be of interest to your readers.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Wahls, MD, MBA
Associate Chief of Staff
VA Iowa City Healthcare System
Associate Professor of Medicine
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
Iowa City, Iowa 52246

Phone: 319 338 0581 ext 6080