Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effects of a general practice guided web-based weight reduction program - results of a cluster-randomized controlled trial

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Response to the Reviewer

We thank the reviewers for their interest in our manuscript and the valuable comments. Please find our point by point response in blue italics behind the single comments from reviewer.

1. Discussion/Strengths and weaknesses: here the fact has to be mentioned that concealment of allocation was not possible after randomisation at the practice level.

Response: As suggested by the Editor we now state more explicitly in the limitation section the fact that the concealment of allocation was not possible after randomisation on practice level. We now state in the manuscript:

… the randomization of the present study was conducted on practice level before individual participants were included. Thus, physicians knew whether they recruited patients for the intervention or the control group which could lead to bias…

2. language: the authors use the term 'condition' which presumably refers to the English 'fitness', what in German is called 'Kondition'. Please correct.

Response: The term ‘condition’ in our manuscript has been already used in sense of the state of health and was not used by the meaning of fitness or endurance.

3. What do the authors mean by 'cooking'? does this stand for 'meals', or 'cooked meals'? Please clarify.

Response: We now state more clearly that with the frequency of 'cooking' is meant the frequency of ‘cooked meals’.

4. Methods/intervention: The program is based on a concept developed by Prof. Dr. Pudel. This should read instead: The program was developed by.... OR The program is based on an idea / framework / intervention suggested by ..

Response: We now state: …The framework of the program is based on the idea by Prof. Dr. Pudel, Institute for Nutrition and Psychology Research Department at the University of Göttingen.