Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of valvular heart disease on daily living activity of nonagenarians: The Leiden 85-plus study

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Author's response to reviews:

Changes made to the manuscript: 5109993402713548

Reviewer: Giovanni Gambassi

We thank the reviewer for his comments and remarks that have helped us to improve our manuscript.

A: Use consistently the term ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING beginning with title

As suggested we have now used consistently the term Activities of daily living.

B: At page 3, end of introduction, the word competence should be performance

We have changed the word competence to performance.

C: In the introduction, avoid the attribute significant to valvular disease and define it in methods.

We have deleted the term “significant” as suggested. In the methods section at page 6, line 20-24 we had already defined significant valvular disease:

“According to the Euro Heart Survey on Valvular Heart Disease, significant valvular disease was defined as any mitral or aortic stenosis severity, moderate or severe mitral regurgitation, moderate or severe aortic regurgitation.[4]"
D: The first sentence of the limitations should be followed by the a statement about the differences between participants with and without echocardiography.

In the section “Study limitations” (page 13) we have added a statement about the differences between participants with and without an echocardiography:

“Although this was a population-based study, the included participants had an overall significant better physical and cognitive performance than those participants who were not included in this study.”

E: The value reported in table for aortic stenosis is 12% although by adding them up you get 17% as illustrated in figure 1.

We thank the reviewer for this important remark and the value has been changed accordingly.

F: In its present form, figure 1 is simply a graphical representation of the data presented in table 3. I was originally suggest to provide an illustration of the most common combination of valvular disease. It seems obvious that most of the patients had more than one valve problem.

We thank the reviewer for this important and constructive suggestion. As suggested we have changed the figure. Presently it reveals the prevalence of combined significant valvular heart disease. (page 19 and page 9)

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Editorial requests:

The manuscript has been reviewed by a native English speaker.

We have revised the background section of the abstract according to the guidelines.

We have revised our manuscript according to the manuscript formatting checklist.