Author's response to reviews

Title: Patterns of comorbidity in community-dwelling older people hospitalised for fall-related injury: A cluster analysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
04 August 2011
Ms Rachel Neilan
Executive Editor
BMC Geriatrics

Dear Ms Rachel Neilan,

**MS: 1542705768542067**
**Patterns of comorbidity in community-dwelling older people hospitalised for fall-related injury: A cluster analysis**

We are pleased to submit the revised manuscript entitled “Patterns of comorbidity in community-dwelling older people hospitalised for fall-related injury: A cluster analysis” for your consideration. We greatly appreciate your advice about the resubmission process and the comments provided by the reviewers.

As requested, we have enclosed a summary providing a point-by-point response to these comments and have used track changes to indicate modifications in the revised manuscript. We believe that our revised manuscript satisfactorily responds to each of the reviewers’ comments and that the changes strengthen the presentation of our research.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact me at +61 3 9902 0354 or by email at trang.vu@monash.edu. We look forward to hearing from you regarding your decision on this manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Trang Vu
### Response to reviewers and schedule of modifications

#### Reviewer: Debora Rizzuto

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<td>Although falls occur at any age the risk of falling increases with age and the outcomes take on greater significance. Older age consider a span of around 40 years. It would be interesting to see if there is any difference among the following age groups. Young old (65-74 years); old-old (75-84 years); oldest old (85+ years).</td>
<td>We agree. The prevalence of comorbidity in these three age groups is now provided in the first paragraph on p.11. Results of the cluster analysis by age group are provided in pp.13-14. The Methodology section (p.7) has also been revised to reflect the inclusion of age group in the sensitivity analysis.</td>
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<td>Could author provide information about the prevalence of comorbidity by socio-economic status?</td>
<td>We agree. Comorbidity results by socio-economic status are now provided in the second paragraph on p.11. Additionally, Table 1 (Patients’ characteristics at admission) now contains the number of patients in the most disadvantaged and the least disadvantaged categories. The differential prevalence of diabetes and dementia among SES groups is discussed in p.15.</td>
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#### Reviewer: Judy A. Stevens

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<td>No revisions are required. However, it would be interesting if the authors could propose some of the underlying biological mechanisms for the association between the chronic conditions found in the identified clusters (e.g., diabetes and renal disease) and the increase risk of fall injuries.</td>
<td>We agree; however, due to the length of the current manuscript, we feel that this important question might be better addressed in a separate paper.</td>
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