Author's response to reviews

Title: Neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients with dementia in primary care: a study protocol

Authors:

  Petra Borsje (p.borsje@elg.umcn.nl)
  Roland B Wetzels (r.wetzels@elg.umcn.nl)
  Peter LBJ Lucassen (p.lucassen@elg.umcn.nl)
  Anne-Margriet Pot (ampot@trimbos.nl)
  Raymond TCM Koopmans (r.koopmans@elg.umcn.nl)

Version: 2 Date: 31 March 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
To the editorial office
BMC Geriatrics

Nijmegen, 25th March 2013

Dear Madam, Sir,

We enclosed our original research article ‘Neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients with dementia in primary care: a study protocol’ by Petra Borsje, Roland B. Wetzels, Peter L.B.J. Lucassen, Anne-Margriet Pot and Raymond T.C.M. Koopmans for consideration of publication in ‘BMC Geriatrics’ as article type Study protocols. Our paper describes the prospective observational cohort study we designed to study the course of neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients with dementia and caregiver distress in primary care. This study is not externally funded by a major funding body. It is funded by Thebe, a non-commercial health care organization in long-term care. This research project was presented for medical ethics review at the Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (CMO) of the district Arnhem - Nijmegen, the Netherlands. The CMO judged that this project is no subject to the Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act (WMO) and can be conducted without review by the CMO. A copy of the clarification of the CMO will be send to you together with the revised manuscript. This study is not a controlled clinical trial. Therefore it is not registered in a trial register.

We consider this article important for your readership, because to our knowledge this is the first study that focuses on the course of NPS in patients with dementia and caregiver distress in primary care. The results of this study will have clinical implications. It will enlarge the awareness of general practitioners for NPS in their patients with dementia. The collected data will also help them to establish the prognosis of these NPS, which is important when offering psycho-education, use of psychosocial interventions and for the planning of healthcare facilities.

We are looking forward to your reply and will be happy to answer any further questions that might arise about this article.

Yours sincerely,

Petra Borsje, Elderly Care Physician
Department of Primary and Community Care
Centre for Family Medicine, Geriatric Care and Public Health
117 ELG Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre
PO Box 9101
6500 HB Nijmegen, the Netherlands
e-mail: P.Borsje@elg.umcn.nl
Telephone: +31 24 3655307