Author's response to reviews

Title: Fall risk-increasing drugs and falls: A cross-sectional study among elderly patients in primary care

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Version: 5 Date: 1 March 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to make a new revision of our manuscript. All changes suggested by you have been incorporated in the manuscript. Our responses to the comments are listed below, following the questions.

Abstract: the abstracts needs to be rewritten for clarity!
Skip the sentence: Although the causes of falls are multi-factorial, medication is one of the risk factors.
Answer: This sentence has been removed from the abstract.

Don't use "mild falls" as a term in the abstract. It is difficult to understand without an explanation.
Answer: We have changed the term “mild falls” to “reported falls”. The definition of “reported falls” is given in the Methods section as “falls during the past three months reported by the nurse in the patient’s PHASE-20 checklist evaluation”.

Age, gender, number of drugs...: These are not primary measures of the study.
Answer: We have rewritten the Abstract and the Methods part is now consistent with the one in the main manuscript, as it follows: “Primary outcome measures were incidence of falls as well as numbers of FRIDs and ODs in fallers and non-fallers.”

Please reformulate in the following sentence "community dwelling gives no meaning: "There were also associations between number of ODs and both total number of drugs (p<0.01) and community dwelling (p=0.02)." Do you mean "being community dwelling"?
Answer: We have changed the sentence so that it now reads “being community dwelling”.

A dot is lacking at the end of the sentence.

Page 3, last paragraph.
-Change "The tools use different clinical characteristics..." to "The tools assess different clinical characteristics..."

Answer: We have made the suggested changes.

- Change sentence, as also commented on for the abstract: "Although the causes of falls are multi-factorial, medications are a significant risk factor."
Answer: The sentence now reads as follows: “Although the causes of falls are multi-factorial, medications are an important risk factor that it might be possible to influence.”

**Methods**

**Patients and setting:**

- Patients included in the study were users of the multi-dose drug dispensing (MDD) system [26] aged 75-years and older..... A comma is lacking after reference 26.

Answer: We have inserted the comma, as you suggested.

**PHASE-20 includes 20 questions and is designed to identify drug-related symptoms.** (Additional file). Do you have a reference from a publication for the form used?

Answer: It is reference 25 and we have now added it to the end of the sentence.

**Page 6 last paragraph. The definition of mild falls does not give meaning. I suggest not using the term "mild falls at all, as this is a very unusual term.**

Answer: We have changed the term “mild falls” to “reported falls” because we aimed at falls reported using the PHASE-20 formulary.

**Data collection and statistical analysis: Divide data collection and data analysis into two different chapters.**

Answer: We have divided data collection and data analysis into two chapters, as you suggested.

“two multiple linear regression (backward method) analyses”. Do you mean two different models, or two analyses performed?

Answer: We performed two analyses, one each for FRIDs and ODs. The text now reads as follows: “and multiple linear regression (backward method) analyses. In the two regression analyses FRIDs and ODs were used as the respective dependent variables”.

**Results,**

-second paragraph: you have assessed a study sample, not a study population. Please change here and other places in the document.

Answer: We have changed the term “population” to “sample” in the document, as suggested.
There were no differences between patients who reported mild falls and those who did not fall during: change to "...did not fall...:"

Answer: We have made the suggested correction.

"A significant proportion (87%) of the study population were.." change "were" to "was"

Answer: We have made the suggested correction.

Discussion:
"Principal findings": change to "main findings"

Answer: We have made the suggested correction.

We hope our manuscript is now acceptable for publication.

Sincerely yours,

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