Author's response to reviews

Title: Age and gender differences in the prevalence and patterns of multimorbidity in the older population

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Author's response to proposal of changes from the reviewers

Title: Age and gender differences in the prevalence and patterns of multimorbidity in the older population

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Research article
Age and gender differences in the prevalence and patterns of multimorbidity in the older population
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BMC Geriatrics

Comments from the reviewers and response from the authors

Thanks for the encouraging and valuable comments and suggestions made by the reviewers that certainly will improve the quality and understanding of the manuscript.

In the following paragraphs we will address the suggestions and comments made by the reviewers. Our answer will be in italics.

Reviewer 1
Comments from the reviewer
The authors have answered to all my comments. I have no further issues with the paper.

Response from the authors
Thanks for the comments.

Reviewer 2
Comments from the reviewer
The authors have addressed many of the issues requiring revision and the manuscript is much improved. In particular, the supplementary material clarifies which conditions were included and how the patterns were constructed. The title now better reflects the results of their analysis.

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract, Methods: please close the bracket after the word (PG).

Discussion, 1st sentence: correct the word “individual” to “individuals”, and “over 65” to “65 years and older”.

Discussion, 3rd sentence, please remove the word conforming and just write “disease patterns”.

Thanks for the comments.
Discussion, paragraph starting with The CM pattern, 2rd sentence, replace the word “population” with “persons”.

Discussion, paragraph starting with Regarding the gender differences, first sentence, please remove repetition of the words “could be” which are written twice in a row.

Conclusion, 1st paragraph, last sentence. Please correct to “…the PG pattern was most prevalent in the oldest age group”.

Figure 1: Please clarify in the legend that the proportions in the circles represent the frequency of non-overlapping disease patterns.

Figure 2: It is not clear in this figure how sex is differentiated. Please label the x and y axis.

Table 3 + 4: Please indicate the n for each age and sex group (how many men were aged 65-74 etc.)

Response from the authors

We have made all the suggested corrections in the manuscript.