Author's response to reviews

Title: Pre-dialysis patients’ perceived autonomy, self-esteem and labor participation: Associations with illness perceptions and treatment perceptions. A cross-sectional study

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

Re; “Pre-dialysis patients’ perceived autonomy, self-esteem and labor participation: Associations with illness perceptions and treatment perceptions. A cross-sectional study”, manuscript id: 1336861601393280, version 2

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to further revise our manuscript. Please find attached the revised manuscript “Pre-dialysis patients’ perceived autonomy, self-esteem and labor participation: Associations with illness perceptions and treatment perceptions. A cross-sectional study”.

In our Revision Note (below) we have addressed all issues raised by the reviewer. We are grateful to the reviewer for giving us the opportunity to clarify our manuscript, on the basis of the reviewer’s thorough and constructive comments.

We look forward to receiving your editorial decision.

Sincerely,
also on behalf of the co-authors,

Daphne Jansen

Revision Note:

Response to reviewer’s comments regarding the manuscript “Pre-dialysis patients’ perceived autonomy, self-esteem and labor participation: Associations with illness perceptions and treatment perceptions. A cross-sectional study”. In the revised version of the manuscript the changes are highlighted by means of track changes.

Reviewer 1

Major Compulsory Revisions

Background:

Background is useful for understanding the research problem. Even if data about previous study are used in literature, I suggest to include some more data in literature revision for clarify the entity of this problem.

In the revised version of the manuscript we described more extensively the entity of the problem by adding:

- more specific information on labor participation rates in dialysis patients (background section, first paragraph, page 4)
- results of a Swedish study (Ekelund & Andersson, 2007) on stressful issues for patients in pre-dialysis and dialysis, which show that stressors with respect to work and leisure time were reported by around 30% of the pre-dialysis patients and by more than 50% of the dialysis patients (background section, first paragraph, page 5).
Method:
You state that “PREPARE-2 is a prospective observational study, started in 2004 and is now operating in 25 pre-dialysis…”, but how many units were active at the time of the study?

At the time of the study 18 units were active. We have included this number in the text, and removed the line in which we stated that 25 units were active (Methods section – participants and procedure, page 8).

Discussion:
I suggest to change the order and begin with the discussion of sample characteristics.

We have changed the order and start by discussing the sample characteristics (Discussion section, paragraph 2, page 16).

Add to limitation a clear statement about sample size and participation rate limitation.

At the end of the Discussion section we have included a statement with respect to the total sample size and working age sample size, and the consequences for the statistical power to demonstrate relationships. In the text we further recommend to take this issue into account in future research (Discussion section, final paragraph, page 20).

Discretionary Revisions

The article is very long. It could be useful to reduce it a little because it is very difficult to read.

We have made changes throughout the text in order to shorten the text and improve the readability. We however decided to shorten the text to a limited extent to ensure that the content remains unchanged.

We thank the reviewer for her thorough and constructive comments.