Author’s response to reviews

Title: Gender differences in self reported long term outcomes following moderate to severe traumatic brain injury

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dr. Melissa Norton  
Editor-In-Chief  
BMC Neurology  

October 18, 2010  

Dear Dr. Norton,  

Please find enclosed the revised version of the article Gender differences in self reported long term outcomes following moderate to severe traumatic brain injury. We have addressed the concerns from both the editorial office and the reviewers below. In the attached manuscript the changes have been highlighted in yellow.

Sincerely,  

Angela Colantonio, PhD  
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Response to Reviewers

We thank the reviewers for their insightful questions and comments. We have addressed each query below. Changes in the attached manuscript are highlighted in yellow.

Response to Editorial Board

Mandatory request:

a) Please could you structure your abstract according to the guidelines provided. Please be sure to include context information within the Background section of the Abstract.

We have made the changes required to the Abstract.

Background: The majority of research on health outcomes after a traumatic brain injury is focused on male participants. Information examining gender differences in health outcomes post traumatic brain injury is limited. The purpose of this study was to investigate gender differences in symptoms reported after a traumatic brain injury and to examine the degree to which these symptoms are problematic in daily functioning.

b) Please include a 'Competing interests' section between the Conclusions and Authors' contributions. If there are none to declare, please write 'The authors declare that they have no competing interests'.

We have added the Competing Interests section where required; page 13.

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Response to Reviewer 1:

Suggestion 1:

Although the authors have incorporated the feedback on selecting a more informative title, the revised title is awkward. Following is a more succinct suggestion: Sex differences in self reported long term outcomes following moderate to severe traumatic brain injury.

We agree with the reviewer and have accepted the recommended title. It has been highlighted in the attached manuscript.
Response to Reviewer 2:

Mandatory request:

The authors responded to the critique of improper reporting of the Bonferroni modification for their statistical comparisons by providing an analysis and correction factor that sets the new significance level at \( p \) less than or equal to 0.02. However, \( p \) values greater than this are still reported as "significant" in the results - page 8, first paragraph, last sentence and page 8, second paragraph, last sentence. Also, Tables 2 and 3 continue to have parameters in bold typeface, indicating that they are statistically significant, when they have \( p \) values that are greater than 0.02.

We thank the reviewer for bringing this to our attention. We have made the changes requested in the Results section and in Tables 2 and 3 (pages 15 and 16).

Results, page 8, paragraph 1 and 2

Significantly more men than women reported difficulty setting realistic goals (\( p<0.02 \)) and high sex drive (\( p<0.01 \)) whereas significantly more women than men reported loss of confidence (\( p<0.02 \)) as a problem.

Men reported sensitivity to noise (\( p<0.02 \)) and sleep disturbances (\( p<0.02 \)) as having a greater impact on daily functioning compared to women. Symptoms presenting significantly more of a problem in daily functioning for women compared to men was lack of initiative (\( p<0.02 \)) and needing supervision (\( p<0.02 \)).