Author's response to reviews

Title: Internet information on birth options after caesarean compared to the RCOG patient information leaflet; A web survey

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

We thank you for your comments and email of 22/07/2014 and are pleased to resubmit our manuscript with suggested revisions and responses as follows:

- **Major compulsory revisions**

  Reviewer comments: ‘Methods – Assumptions about Poisson regression. An assumption about Poisson distribution is that mean equals variance. Results in the section of “Comparison of website clinical data to gold standard” seem to suggest overdispersion (mean 42.4 vs. variance = square of 23.8 for VBAC & mean 44.8 vs. variance = square of 25.0 for ERCS). If deviance or Pearson’s statistic, or something else, was used to handle over-dispersion, the authors should indicate this explicitly in Methods section.’

  Authors’ response: The mean and variance of the total ERCS score were 4.48 and 6.26 respectively. For the total VBAC score the mean and variance were 5.92 and 10.8 respectively. As the reviewer correctly states, we adjusted for over-dispersion using the Pearson chi-square method to estimate the scale parameter. As an extra check, we also fitted a negative binomial model and used the Lagrange multiplier test to test whether the ancillary parameter equalled zero. A non-significant result meant that over-dispersion was not a concern. In both models this test was not significant. We have inserted text relating to this into the methods section on page 7 and the results section on page 10.

- **Minor essential revisions**

  1. Methods, Internet search method, “...The search process is outlined in Figure 1 (Figure 1).” Delete the redundant “(Figure 1)”.
2. Main data, Search Results, “the search terms outlined in Table 1 (Table 1).”
Delete the redundant “(Table 1)”.

Please let us know if any further changes are required.
Thank you in anticipation.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Mairead Black
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