Author's response to reviews

Title: Preferences for active and aggressive interventions among patients with advanced cancer

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Author's response to reviews: see over
August 29, 2010

Dr. Melissa Norton
Editor-in-Chief, BMC Cancer
BioMed Central Ltd
Floor 6, 236 Gray's Inn Road
London, WC1X 8HL
United Kingdom

Re: Manuscript re-submission:

“Preferences for active and aggressive intervention among patients with advanced cancer”

Dear Dr. Norton,

On behalf of our research team, I would like to re-re-submit our manuscript for consideration of being published in your journal within the category of “Original Research”. Please note that we have added a new member to our team, Dr. Marguerite Ennis, an academic biostatistician.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Benjamin Sommers for his very professional and erudite peer review of our original submission and subsequent resubmission. We have given full consideration to all of the revisions requested.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. As suggested, a logistic regression was used with % interventions as the outcome variable.

2. Tables 1 & 2 were transformed into multivariate analyses.

Minor Compulsory Revisions

3. Trained medical interpreters, when needed, were used.

4. We believe that it is as important to include the non-significant results as the significant results.

5. We removed the discussion of univariate results.

6. We removed the multivariate discussion of age and race as requested.

7. I removed the discussion of colinearity.

8. We did not collect socioeconomic data.
**Discretionary Revisions**

9. In SUPPORT, there was a tendency for the clinicians not to follow or follow-through with the advance directives (preferences) of patients. We have therefore changed the word compliance to adherence.

10. We remain of the opinion that the lack of randomization is a limitation of our study.

11. Our statement about improved comfort, dignity and quality of life is based on our experience with hundreds of patients and families that have reported feeling empowered by being given a choice.

On behalf of our team I wish to declare no conflicts of interest.

In addition, this manuscript is being only submitted to BMC Cancer and not concurrently to other journals.

Sincerely,

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