Author's response to reviews

Title: Influence of a Patient information program on adherence and persistence with an aromatase inhibitor in breast cancer treatment The COMPAS-Study

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Dear Editor,

Ad 1) concerning Your request no MS: 5600205878993342 we have to state that the COMPAS-Study was planned and started in 2005 so that in accordance to German regulation, we did not register the study as a clinical trial. Our local ethics board did classify the study as "outcome research" not as a "clinical trial". However, the COMPAS-Study actually does include several aspects of a clinical trial. In this study patients where randomized to receive an intervention to help them stay on their treatment with an aromatase inhibitor, but the study does not interfere with the oncologist treatment decision/initiation and only follows the treatment in an observatory manner, hoping the information and motivation provided would help the patient to stay on treatment. Because of this circumstances, we would appreciate Your willingness to continue the reviewing process without a "clinical trial" registration number. We believe that our manuscript is of distinct value for the readers of BMC-Cancer. If acceptable, we would in accordance to our ethics board classify the COMPAS-Study as "outcome research".

Ad 2) The manuscript did already include comments on disclosures. We included a heading “Competing Interests” to better clarify this.

Thank You in advance for your consideration.

Looking forward to Your decision,

V. Ziller