Author's response to reviews

Title: Cancer suspicion in general practice, urgent referral and time to diagnosis: A population-based GP survey and registry study

Authors:

Henry Jensen (henry.jensen@feap.dk)
Marie Louise Tørring (mlt@feap.dk)
Frede Olesen (fo@feap.dk)
Jens Overgaard (jens@oncology.dk)
Peter Vedsted (p.vedsted@feap.dk)

Version: 5 Date: 15 August 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
The Editor, BMC Cancer

Dear Editor,

RE: MS: 6417306013093734 - Cancer suspicion in general practice, urgent referral and time to diagnosis: A population-based cross-sectional study

Thank you very much for the positive assessment of our comments to the revised manuscript. We have addressed the editorial request as outlined below. For your readability we have numbered the editorial requests and written our responses in red italics.

On behalf of the authors,
Yours sincerely,
Henry Jensen

1. Please include email addresses for all authors on your title page.
   We have included email addresses for all the authors on the title page, as requested. We have done so by inserted a small table on the title page, with one authors name and email address per row.

2. Please clarify whether you received written informed consent from participants.
   We truly understand your concern regarding this matter, and apologise for not making this clear in our ethical approval section, which we now have moved to the methods section line 154-160.
   As there has been no biomedical intervention taken place, the Danish Health Act entitles the Danish National Board of Health the opportunity to grant permission to specific research projects to obtain information from the GPs medical records without consulting the patients. As the Danish National Board of Health did provide such permission for this study, we did not need to receive any written informed consent from the patients to obtain information from the GPs medical records.
   We have emphasised this in our section of ethical approvals by adding that the approval from the National Board of Health gave us permission to obtain information from the GP without a written informed consent as follows:
   “The study was approved by the Danish Data Protection Agency (rec. no. 2009-41-3471). The Danish National Board of Health (today the Danish Health and Medicines Authority) gave, according to section 46 of the Danish Health Act, legal permission to obtain information from the GPs’ medical records without the patients’ consent (rec. no. 7-604-04-2/195/EHE). According to Danish law and the Central Denmark Region Committees on Health Research Ethics, approval by the National Committee on Health Research Ethics was not required as no biomedical intervention was performed.

3. Please make clear in your title that your study is a GP survey and registry based study.
   We have revised the title slightly to allow for your request as follows:
   “Cancer suspicion in general practice, urgent referral and time to diagnosis: A population-based GP survey and registry study”