Author's response to reviews

Title: The knowledge and attitudes of breast self-examination and mammography in a group of women in a rural area in western Turkey

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Response to the comments of Reviewer 1 (Anette Hjartaker)

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Comment: The presentation of the results from the logistic regression analysis has been changed in the revised version but is still not correct. The reviewer insists that the authors clearly state the outcome of the logistic regression analysis. The outcome should be stated both in the text, whenever relevant, and in table 2.

Response: The presentation of the results from logistic regression analysis are corrected in the results and discussion sections.

Comment: As suggested in the first review report, an overall table on knowledge of breast cancer, CHBSM score, BSE and mammography practice would be increase the accessibility of the paper.

Response: Table formats of indicated comment are corrected.

Minor Essential Revisions

Comment: Be consequent in using the abbreviations CHBMS or HBM throughout the manuscript.

Response: Consistency in the abbreviations is made
Comment: Background pg. 4: The sentence starting with “Although ACS no longer recommends…” is not easily understood (especially the first part of it) and should be rewritten. Also the word “early” or the like seems to be missing.
Response: The due correction is made.

Comments: Methods pg. 6: The sentence starting with “The aim of the study…” talks about a 99.9 confidence interval, no interval is given. Please clarify. Methods pg. 7: It is described that data were collected from those who gave verbally consent. How many women were asked to participate altogether, how many said “Yes” and how many said “No”? How could the participant rate surpass 100%? Where women who refused to join the study replaced by others?
Responses: Methods pg. 6: Erroneously, ‘confidence interval’ expression is used instead of ‘confidence level’. This mistake is corrected.
Methods pg. 7: No woman who was selected for the study group refused to participate. This is usually the case in rural areas of Turkey.
When the visits were made to the selected houses, it was found that, in some houses, more than one woman aged 20-64 (daughters, mother-in-laws, aunts etc.) were living. That’s why the participation rate surpasses 100%.

Comment: Methods pg. 9: The sentence starting with “Attitudes of the husbands…”, is this statement based on findings in the present study? If not, please include a reference.
Response: Reference is included.

Comments: Discussion pg. 11: The figures in table 4 does not support the statement saying that older women where more likely to perform BSE than younger women. Also, as the authors say, there is no overall statistical significant association between age and BSE.
Discussion pg. 11: Are the figures 27.9% and 5.1% concerning mammography presented in the result section? If not, please include.
Discussion pg. 12: Please include a reference to the first sentence on the page.
Discussion pg. 13: The sentence starting with “In this study, seriousness was…” merely repeats the preceding sentence and could be deleted. You may move the fragment “In this study,” to the beginning of the preceding sentence.
Responses: Due corrections are made.
Grammatical errors are corrected by a native speaker.