Author's response to reviews

Title: Psychological adjustment and quality of life in children and adolescents following open-heart surgery for congenital heart disease: a systematic review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editor

After receiving your editorial letter and the reviews of our revised paper we would like to address the concerns of reviewer 4.

1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria: Both inclusion and exclusion are extensively presented in figure 1. We feel that this figure does sufficiently show on what bases studies have been included or excluded. Therefore, we have not made additional changes to the manuscript.

2. We are unclear about the 2nd comment of reviewer 4. If we understand correctly the reviewer wants additional informations on the study design.

As reported in the manuscript the design of each study has been incorporated into the methodological quality assessment (explained in the methods section and in Figure 2). Prospective designs were rated higher than retrospective designs. However, among the reviewed papers there was only one study with a prospective design (Visconti et al., 2002). We now mention this in the discussion section of the revised paper under limitations (p. 15, 2nd paragr.).

We hope that these revisions sufficiently respond to the concerns mentioned by reviewer 4 and we hope that our paper is now suitable for publication in *BMC Pediatrics.*

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

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