Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical characteristics in schizophrenia patients with or without suicide attempts and non-suicidal self-harm - a cross-sectional study

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Version: 4 Date: 24 July 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
* Cover Letter

Oslo July 24th 2013

The Editor,
BMC Psychiatry

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your e-mail and the possibility to resubmit a third revision of MS: 7899180259511766 “Clinical characteristics in schizophrenia patients with or without suicide attempts and non-suicidal self-harm - a cross-sectional study.” We respond to the reviewer’s comments in the following section. A revised version of the manuscript is uploaded according to your instructions.

Reviewer's report

Version: 3 Date: 16 July 2013
Reviewer: Graham Pluck
Reviewer's report: The manuscript is good and reports the findings fairly clearly. I have just a couple of discretionary revisions.

Comment 1. In Tables 1 and 2 you have occasionally used a 'not equal to' sign, instead of a 'greater than' or 'smaller than'. I'm not sure why this is, unless there is a good statistical reason consider using the other signs for consistency (as you have with other Chi2 tests).

Reply, comment 1
We have used the 'not equal to' sign instead of a 'greater than' or 'smaller than' sign systematically on nominal variables (gender and current medication), since using 'greater than' or 'smaller than' could by some be perceived as the groups themselves (antipsychotic vs no antipsychotic) was ordered as 'greater than' or 'smaller than' (as opposed to the number of people having the characteristic).

Comment 2. Page 13, 2nd paragraph. The phrase 'We could rather speculate' sounds odd. Perhaps it would be better as 'Rather we could speculate' (or perhaps you mean 'We would rather speculate').

Reply, comment 2
We have changed the wording of the first part of the sentence according to the suggestion from the reviewer.

Revision, comment 2
Discussion section, Page 13, 2nd paragraph. First part of sentence changed to: “Rather we could speculate that early onset of depression,…”

Comment 3. Check the reference list for consistency. For example, I noticed that a full journal name is used for Ref 4, but the rest seem to be abbreviated.

National Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention
University of Oslo
Reply, comment 3
The journal name used for reference 4 (“Suicide Life Threat Behav”) is not the full journal name, it is the abbreviation for the journal “Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior” as used, e.g. in the NLM Catalog (NCBI). We have in this revision, as in previous revisions done our best to conform with the journal style of BMC psychiatry, but can of course not guarantee that errors may not occur.

In addition, we have added the following to the end of the first sentence in the Methods section, 1st paragraph page 5 and to the end of the first sentence of the Abstract, Methods section to describe the recruitment area more detailed: “and Innlandet Hospital Trust”.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
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