Author’s response to reviews

Title: How do psychosocial determinants in migrant women in the Netherlands differ from these among their counterparts in their country of origin? A cross-sectional study

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Thank you for e-mail at March 22th, inviting us to submit a second revised version of the manuscript entitled “How do psychosocial determinants in migrant women in the Netherlands differ from these among their counterparts in their country of origin? A cross-sectional study” (MS: 1513215674178667). We thank the reviewer for her suggestions and have revised the manuscript accordingly. In addition we have improved the text of one paragraph (page 5).

Below you find our response to the concerns of the reviewer.

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<th>Reviewer</th>
<th>Response to reviewer</th>
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<td>The authors have modified the article to better reflect the complexity of the issues and circumstances that affect the patterns and trends of migrant tobacco use after migration. However, in so doing, they utilize a narrow and unhelpful term &quot;lifestyle changes&quot;, to describe the situation confronting migrants post migration. This term implies that individuals exert choice, based on a set of choices in front of them in the destination country. This is only part of the story, and an oversimplification. The rest is that there are numerous psychosocial reasons underlying health behaviours such as smoking among women (such as identity formation, dealing with negative emotion) and numerous underlying structural factors affecting health inequity that might be converging to affect migrant women in particular. The reference Malmusi et al, 2010 utilized by the authors, reflects this complexity very well: “...cumulative inequality, both in the palce of origin, woth poorer socioeconomic environment in childhood and growth in the palce of destination, with chronic exposure to work hazards, poor living conditions, hardship and discrimination,</td>
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<td>We have changed the text in the introduction and the discussion to underscore the complexity of influences underlying the smoking behaviour in this revised version of the manuscript (page 4 and 14/15).</td>
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mechanisms that are well recognized as causal factors of racial and ethnic inequalities in health”.

Further, the authors suggest that adoption of western lifestyle involves migrant women's smoking rates always going up post migration. While this is often true, it is not always true in all situations, depending on the ethnic group, religious factors, rates in country of origin, rates at destination, age etc.. In all, this is rather a complex picture. I would suggest modifications of these two areas in the manuscript to reflect the wider picture.

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We hope that our revised manuscript will now be favorably considered for publication.

Yours sincerely, also on behalf of the co-authors,

Vera Nierkens