Author's response to reviews

Title: Higher levels of psychological distress are associated with a higher risk of incident diabetes during 18 year follow-up: results from the British Household Panel Survey.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Tilburg, November 8, 2012

Dear editor and reviewers of BMC Public Health,

Once again, we would like to thank the reviewer for their time and effort to consider our manuscript “Higher levels of emotional distress are associated with a higher risk of incident diabetes during 18 year follow-up: results from the British Household Panel Survey.” (MS: 1659771496740513).

We have made final adaptations to the manuscript, which are answered in a point-to-point response below. The adaptations in the manuscript have been described below.

Sincerely,

Paula M.C. Mommersteeg, PhD
Tilburg University

Point-to-point responses to the reviewer.

**Reviewer 1.**

**Reviewer's report:** high  
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field  
**Quality of written English:** Acceptable  
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.  
**Declaration of competing interests:** 'I declare that I have no competing interests'

**Answer:** no further adaptations needed to be made.

**Reviewer 2:**

**Reviewer's report:**  
I think the manuscript is fine now. There is probable a misprint on page 15 para 2 in the first sentence: “Given that psychological distress is associated with an increased diabetes incidence, explanatory pathways may be via increased perceived chronic stress.” I think the word perceived should be skipped here. Otherwise, the article can be published now.  
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field  
**Quality of written English:** Acceptable  
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Answer:** This has now been adapted, ‘perceived’ has been left out.

**Reviewer 3:**

**Reviewer's report:**  
I commend the authors for undertaking the revisions in a thorough and considered manner. Upon re-reading this manuscript, I feel it has been strengthened considerably.  
**MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS** Nil  
**MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS** Nil  
**DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS**  
1. In the sentence towards the end of the Design and Participants section "It must be noted that information on wave of diabetes presence and wave until last measurement was used in the analysis, thus optimizing the information available of people who became dropout during the 18 waves" revise "became dropout" to "dropped out"
Answer: This sentence has now been adapted in accordance and reads “It must be noted that information on wave of diabetes presence and wave until last measurement was used in the analysis, thus optimizing the information available of people who dropped out during the 18 waves.”

2. Last sentence, BMI and Leisure Activity section: need to close bracket

Answer: This bracket has been closed (page 8).

3. The arguments you make on pages 15-16 about considering variables other than depression in a clinical setting are good ones. Larry Fisher has done some work in this area, and I wonder if citing some of his work here may further strengthen this section

Answer: Indeed, we thank the reviewer for pointing out the work of this group. We’ve now added a recent RCT by this group (page 15/16): “Whereas screening for depression …, improving regimen adherence by a structured self-monitoring of blood glucose lead to significantly greater reductions in distress, compared to an active control group [Fisher et al, 2011].”

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests: I have received consultancy payments from Roche Diagnostics in 2011 and 2012. I have no other financial or non-financial competing interests.