Author's response to reviews

Title: Alcohol and marijuana use while driving - an unexpected crash risk in Pakistani commercial drivers: A Cross-sectional Survey

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Author's response to reviews: see over
We would like to thank the esteemed reviewers for their insightful comments. We have tried to address the queries raised and incorporate the suggestions made in the manuscript. Please let us know if any further changes need to be made. We have also included a version of the manuscript with “tracked changes” in the additional materials section.

Reviewer 1:

Thank you for your comments. We present a point by point response to them below:

1. We have included a description of the questionnaire development methodology that was followed in the methods section. As suggested, we have included the wording of relevant questions. Ethnicity and stimulant pill usage is now mentioned in the questionnaire design as well. We did not collect information on where they obtained their alcohol and marijuana. Both these substances are illegal in Pakistan and any questions on their source would only discourage already hesitant subjects in divulging information.

2. We have included the limited information that we had on stimulant use in the methodology and results section. The potentially hazardous role of stimulants has also been mentioned in the introduction. Primarily, the reason for not mentioning this use in detail was the focus of the paper (on alcohol and marijuana) and also that we did not have further information on reasons for usage of stimulants from the drivers. The other reported reasons table has been modified as suggested. We have separated the different categories and also deleted one of the columns (on % of respondents as we think it does not add any value to the evidence and may be confusing for readers).

Reviewer 2:

Thank you for your comments. We present a point by point response to them below:

a. We did another review of the literature in light of your very valid point and decided to exclude the previously mentioned references from the text. (Paragraph 3 of background)

b. We have moved up the information on laws on DWI in Pakistan from the discussion section as suggested. (Paragraph 3 of Background). There are separate regulations for cars and commercial vehicles on the roads but as far as DWI is concerned, the same laws govern both. We have mentioned that alcohol and substance abuse is prohibited for all drivers in Pakistan, in the introduction.
c. We have added more description of the questionnaire as suggested both by you and reviewer 1. The phrasing of the questions on perceptions and opinions has been included in the questionnaire design section of the methodology. (Paragraph 2 of Study Design)

d. We have removed one of the columns of table three as we were convinced that it did not add any value to the evidence and would only confuse potential readers. The label for the remaining column has been changed and previously combined categories have been presented separately.

e. A major factor in making the subjects comfortable enough to talk to the interviewer and divulge potentially incriminating information involved developing a good rapport with the individuals. There are numerous sects of Islam in Pakistan with a lot of tension between sects. Religion is therefore a very sensitive subject for many Pakistanis, especially the lesser educated. We opted not to include any questions which could potentially lead to misunderstandings and distrust. But we have tried to mention the variation and significance of differences between the different ethnic groups and the need for further analysis of these differences in the discussion (Paragraph 5 of discussion).

Discretionary revisions:

The word *predicament* has been replaced in the title. Suggested correct terms and references have been added to the text. The information on laws has been moved up to the introduction as suggested.

Thank you,

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