Author's response to reviews

Title: Anxiety and depression amongst patients enrolled in a public sector antiretroviral treatment programme in South Africa: a cross-sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To whom it may concern,

MS: 3409923605547812:

Anxiety and depression amongst patients enrolled in a public sector antiretroviral treatment programme in South Africa: a cross-sectional study

Attached please find our revised manuscript. We had a professional copy-editor read our article and made the necessary changes. We dealt with the comments of the two reviewers as follows:

Rob van Hoest:

1-9. We made each of the nine specific editorial changes suggested by the reviewer.

Judith Rabkin:

1. We revised the paragraph on page 7-8 on the justification of the 8+ cut-off and the last paragraph on page 12 under limitations to address this particular issue: importantly, the literature on HADS (we obtained two published reviews of the scale and cite the most recent one in the paper) does not employ 12 as a cut-off for
‘severe’ cases (though other scale do), but rather 15/16, depending on which sources one consults. As explained in the section on limitations, the number of ‘severe’ cases (n < 9) in this study’s dataset is too small to warrant meaningful statistical analysis.

2. We noted the cut-off on HADS in the abstract.

3. We employed the language of ‘protective’ and ‘risk’ factors in the discussion of the literature as well as in the discussion on study findings and the conclusion.

4. The result on widowhood is discussed in the 3rd paragraph on page 11 of the main text: we note that our results contradicts results reported in the existing empirical literature but offers a potential explanation for our result with reference to another body of literature on widowhood.

5. As this particular sentence does not contribute any additional value or meaning, we deleted the relevant sentence from the text.

6. We make reference in the text and abstract to avoidant coping per se rather than coping in general, as suggested by both reviewers.

Yours sincerely

Frikkie Booysen

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