Author's response to reviews

Title: Gender differences in the utilisation of health-care services among the older adult population of Spain

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover letter with point-by-point description of the changes made and responses to reviewer’s comments

We thank the reviewer for their useful comments. Following there is a detailed response to their comments and a description of the changes made.

Reviewer: Alistair W Stewart

Major Compulsory Revisions

As suggested, we have now removed the percent change in the excess crude odds ratio (PCECOR) from the paper.

The contribution of each group of variables to gender differences in the use of each health service has been examined by comparing the values of the OR of health services use of women versus men before and after adjustment for such groups of variables. Now, the comparison is only descriptive (we show in table 3 the OR before and after adjustment) with no attempt to quantify the change in OR with any absolute or relative measure, such as the PCECOR. In this way, we convey the same information on the influence of adjustments in the OR as in the previous versions of the manuscript, while we avoid the problems of the PCECOR.

Also, we have not used the collapsibility test proposed by Maldonado and Greenland to test the significance of the differences in OR, to avoid any problem regarding the applicability of this test to estimates obtained from logistic models.