Author's response to reviews

Title: Percutaneous injuries among dental professionals in Washington State

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Version: 2 Date: 1 August 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
July 31, 2006

Annabel Phillips PhD
Assistant Editor
BMC-series Journals
BioMed Central

Dear Dr. Phillips

Please find attached the revised manuscript MS: 1580543730941525 - Percutaneous injuries among dental professionals in Washington State.

We very much appreciate reviewers’s thoughtful comments and we have made necessary changes and it improved the quality of our work.

Here are the main points:

1. Title
   We have changed the title to in light of specific comments by reviewers Dr. Gershon (specific text comment 1), Dr. Leggat (Title) and NSI restrictive term Dr. Leggat (Introduction).

2. Abstract
   Abstract, line 5 comments by Dr. Gershon regarding proportion of injuries has been addressed and included in Discussion at page 8 last 4 lines. We made a structured abstract as pointed out by Dr. Leggat

3. Introduction.
   As recommended by Dr. Gershon, Dr. McLaws and Dr. Leggat more appropriate references were included to highlight the dental angle of this study.

4. Methods
   This section shortened and simplified (Dr. Gershon). We also clarified that results were not available for all sources (Dr. Gershon). We included study time period (Dr. Leggat), We indicated that some of federal and private workers were not covered by workers compensation system (Dr. Leggat). Further description of lab tests, cost estimates included (Dr. Leggat). Also some points raised by Dr. McLaws (Methods 2, 3, 4 , 5) were addressed.

5. Results
   New results about the age, gender and hepatitis B vaccination status were included as suggested by Dr. BOUVET.

   Results were further clarified as suggested by Dr. Gershon. Number of sero-converts included. Further details regarding cost included in method and discussion.
We deleted Tables 1 and 2 as recommended by reviewers (Dr. Gershon and Dr. Leggat). We could not perform trend analyses due to non-availability of denominator data (Dr. McLaws- Results 6 and 7).

Discussion

Changed “may” to “will” in last paragraph but could not find 12 months reporting behavior (Dr. McLaws).

Discussion now includes suggestion about prevention and possible solutions (Dr. BOUVET).

Discussion focused on what we found as was suggested by Dr. Gershon. We included additional appropriate references suggested by Dr. Gershon and Dr. Leggat.

Figure one deleted and Title of Table 3 and format changed (Dr. Gershon).

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any problems or questions regarding the manuscript.

With best wishes,

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