Author's response to reviews

Title: Differences in avoidable mortality between migrants and the native Dutch in the Netherlands

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The authors have addressed all comments in a thoughtful way. There are only three aspects I would like to draw the authors attention to:

1. The justification of including liver cancer is still not quite convincing since ‘avoidable’ mortality as defined here includes conditions for which it is reasonable to expect (premature) death to be averted even after the condition has developed. Thus, the development of liver cancer may very well be prevented through appropriate measures (i.e. through preventing infection); yet, once liver cancer is developed its treatment prospects are rather poor.

The text of the article was adjusted to make this point clearer.

2. The additional calculations for diabetes at different age-limits should be reported in the results section rather than discussion where they can then appropriately be referred to.

The table and text were adjusted as suggested.

3. Last paragraph (p. 15): the added sentence "even though medical services cannot be directly responsible" should perhaps be re-phrased into "even though medical services may not be directly responsible".

The text was adjusted as suggested.