Author's response to reviews

Title: Media suicide-reports, Internet use and the occurrence of suicides between 1987 and 2005 in Japan

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Version: 4 Date: 11 October 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
October 11, 2007

Editor,
BMC Public Health

Dear Editor:
I am sending you our revised manuscript entitled “Media suicide-reports, Internet use and the occurrence of suicides between 1987 and 2005 in Japan.” Following the comment by Dr. Yip and Dr. Sonneck, we preformed an additional analysis, and revised a manuscript. We believe that problems raised by the reviewers have been adequately addressed. We would like to resubmit the paper to the BMC Public Health for publication.

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Thank you for your time and attention.
With best regards,

Akihito Hagihara, DMSc, MPH
Reponses to the comments by Dr. Gernot Sonneck

Major Compulsory Revisions
1a. (p12, 3rd para, line 7 - p13, 1st para, line 6)
   We acknowledge the importance of daily data; however, because daily data were not available, we used monthly data. In response to this comment and that of another reviewer, we have added to the revised manuscript an explanation of the importance of daily data for the analysis.

1b. (p13, 2nd para, line 10 – p13, 2nd para, line 14)
   In response to this comment, we have explained that there was no overlap between the articles identified by “suicide” and “suicide bombing (attacks)” in the present study.

2. (p7, 1st para, line 17- (p7, 1st para, line 20)
   In the revised manuscript, we have clarified that only the dependent variable was logarithmic transformed.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. (p8, 3rd para, lines, 6, 7)
   In response to this comment, we have revised the sentence in the updated manuscript.

2. (Reference No. 10)
   We have corrected this error in the revised manuscript.

3. (Figure 1; p7, bottom line-p8, 1st para, line 1)
   In response to this comment, we have added a figure showing these data.
Responses to the comments by Dr. Paul S Yip

1. (p10, 1st para)
   In response to this comment, we have added an explanation concerning the results of additional analyses to evaluate the possibility of autocorrelation, indicating that no problem related to autocorrelation is expected, in the revised manuscript.

2. (p12, 3rd para, line 7- p13, 1st para, line 6)
   In the revised manuscript, we added an explanation of the importance of daily data for the analysis.

3. (p11, 1st para, lines 3-6)
   Data concerning the extent of exposure to the suicide website were not available; however, statistics concerning the number of suicidal acts and suicide victims influenced by the website were available. We have added these findings and reinforced our interpretation in the revised manuscript.