Author’s response to reviews

Title: Impacts of the Finnish service screening programme on breast cancer rates

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Version: 3 Date: 23 November 2007

Author’s response to reviews:

23.11.2007

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed a new version of our manuscript on the Impacts of the Finnish service screening programme on breast cancer rates. We have carefully considered the new comments given the reviewer. The following changes have been done, based on the comments:

Reviewer 2 (A Barchielli), second round of review

1. We have added a description to explain the logical reason and interpretation underlying the statistical analyses on the screening effects as shown in the Table 3, see Materials and methods section on page 7, lines 5-14 of the second paragraph. The interpretation between different models has also been clarified in the Discussion section, respectively, on page 9 lines 1-3 of the last paragraph and on page 13 line 4 of the 2nd paragraph.

2. Concerning the discussion about how the changing patterns in the breast cancer mortality have affected (and will affect in the future) we added a mention about the smaller number of deaths prevented (page 13 lines 10-11). Otherwise we think that the current version discussing this phenomenon is already extensive: see the 2nd paragraph of page 13; and another paragraph in the start of page 14.

3. We have cited a new reference by Dr. Gotzsche, and added their discussion on the overall mortality (Introduction, page 3, line 8).

4. Reference to the Table corrected, page 8, 3rd para, last line.

5. Minus sign added, (Results-section, last line).

According to the Editorial comments, we have added sections on the ethical consideration, Authors’ contribution, and on Competing interests. In addition, a subtitle ‘Conclusions’ was added to the end of the Discussion section.
On behalf of the authors,

Sincerely Yours,

Ahti Anttila