Author's response to reviews

Title: The predictive effect of fear-avoidance beliefs on low back pain among newly educated health care workers with or without previous low back pain. A prospective cohort study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BioMed Central Editorial Team

Thank you for your e-mail of August 14, 2009. We have made the required changes based on the comments from reviewer 1 (Reviewer 2 had no comments).

Minor (compulsory) changes:

- We have stated clearly that we are talking about cases with and without LBP in the abstract and result section, page 2 and page 14-15
- All three objectives have been concluded upon in the abstract and final conclusion
- Reference has been removed (Lagerstrom M, Work-related low-back problems in nursing, 1998)
- The reviewer asks us not to forget that the study population is getting older in relation to the LBP caused by physical activity (physical work load?). We did not clearly understand the comment, but the prevalence of LBP in this study population is highest among the younger workers and lowest among the those > 50 years.
- Second para, page 4: The sentence starting “However, this is an issue…” has been rewritten: “However, a later review concluded that the evidence regarding the effect of the psychosocial work environment on LBP were low because of methodological problems [15]”
- Page 5, first para, line 4: We have changed the sentence to: “These beliefs contributes to the development of musculoskeletal pain into a chronic pain syndrome”.
- Methods - Ethical permission: Under “Design”, fourth para, we have written: The study has been notified to and registered by the Danish Data Protection Agency (Datatilsynet, see http://www.datatilsynet.dk/english
for details). Questionnaire- and register-based studies do not need approval from the Danish National Committee on Biomedical Research Ethics (Den Centrale Videnskabelske komité, see http://www.cv.k.dk/cvk/site.aspx?p=119 for details).

- Page 11, second para, line 4 - Study population: The term “ill” has been replaced with “on long-term sickness absence”
- Results section: We agree with the interpretations of the reviewer and have changed some of the text in line with the suggestions of the reviewer:

Please notice, that we have included the reviewers in our acknowledgements: “The authors also thank Charlotte Leboeuf-Yde and Jens Ivar Brox for a thorough revision and for the helpful comments given. ”. If this is not appropriate, please remove it.

We have gone through the manuscript formatting checklist and the manuscript should conform to all of the points. But we are a bit insecure about the two tables that we have embedded as pictures by the “paste special” function. Please let us know if we should have pasted our tables differently.

We say yes to a press release. However, if possible, we would like all communication from journalists to be written (by e-mail).

Please contact us if there are any problems with the final manuscript

Kind regards

Jette Nygaard Jensen
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