Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of multi-site musculoskeletal symptoms: a French cross-sectional working population-based study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Prevalence of multi-site musculoskeletal symptoms: a French cross-sectional working population-based study

Reviewer's report / Version: 4

Reviewer 1: David Coggon  Date: 5 April 2012

Minor Essential Revisions

R1Q1. Page 7, line 9. I think it would be better to replace "subacute" by "prolonged".
Further to your remark, we have replaced this word.
Modified article (v5): Page 7, line 9.

R1Q2. Page 12, lines 8-9. Sensitivity is only one part of validity. Depending on the evidence, I suggest it would be better to say either "validity" or "sensitivity" rather than "validity (sensitivity)".
We agree with your remark and we have made the suggested modification.
Modified article (v5): Page 13, line 2.

R1Q3. Page 12, lines 11-12. There seems to be a typo here. Two different values are quoted for specificity. Should one of them be sensitivity?
We agree with your remark and we have modified the text accordingly.
Modified article (v5): Page 13, line 4.
Title: Prevalence of multi-site musculoskeletal symptoms: a French cross-sectional working population-based study

Reviewer's report / Version: 4

Reviewer 2: Susan Picavet Date: 3 April 2012

I do not think the paper has improved. The two major issues I raised before still stand. The text in the discussion on the comparisons with the international literature is very incoherent and does not give a clear answer to the main questions.

We are sorry to have disappointed you with our previous answer. Now, with the help of the editor, we feel that we have significantly improved our manuscript by incorporating your comments. We have now added two tables from data with stratifications on the multi-sites musculoskeletal symptoms according to the gender, age groups, professional level and industries, and have presented in the text the trends of multi-sites musculoskeletal symptoms. We have also added in the discussion a better comparison of other literature based on these results.

Modified article (v5):

- “Statistical analysis” section : Page 8, lines 1-2;
- New tables : Pages 22-23;
- Update of the numbers of tables : Page 9, lines 10 and 16 / Page 10, lines 2-3 from the bottom / Page 11, line 8 / Pages 24-25;
- “Results” section, comments of the new tables : Page 10, lines 3-18;
- “Discussion” section, addition of subtitles to clarify the development : Page 11, line 10 from the bottom / Page 12, line 4 / Page 13, line 9 / Page 14, line 10 / Page 15, line 6 from the bottom / Page 16, line 9 / Page 17, line 10 from the bottom;
- “Discussion” section, restructuring and additional developments: Page 14, lines 13-16 from the top and lines 5-6 from the bottom / Page 15, lines 4-8 from the top, lines 1-13 from the bottom and Page 16, line 1 / Page 18, lines 3-9.