Author's response to reviews

Title: The Information Needs of People Living with Ankylosing Spondylitis: A Questionnaire Survey

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We would be grateful if you would consider our manuscript entitled “The Information Needs of People Living with Ankylosing Spondylitis: A Questionnaire Survey” for publication in your journal.

Delivering appropriate information to patients is a central component in the management of chronic conditions, such as Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS). We have investigated the information needs of patients participating in an AS cohort. We explore the role of the internet compared with paper based sources of patient education and highlight the need for stratification of information distribution relating particularly to the age and disease duration of the patient. Pertinent findings include the need for more positive and practical advice for patients, raised public awareness of the condition, improved general practitioner education and knowledge of AS and better access to health professionals.

These findings have important implications for information dissemination for AS patients and highlights the need for improving general awareness of AS.

We confirm that the manuscript, or parts of the manuscript have not been submitted nor simultaneously submitted elsewhere.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Roxanne Cooksey