Author's response to reviews

Title: A comparative study on the prevalence of musculoskeletal complaints among musicians and non-musicians.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Leonid Kalichman, Deborah Alperovitch and Bionka Huisstede,

Thank you for your review of our manuscript.

Following your comments, changes were made in the article:

1. We choose to put both medical students groups together in the whole manuscript; as no interesting differences were present between the medical students playing and not playing an instrument.

2. Using the data of this study, as written in the original methods, both univariate and multivariate logistic regression were performed. However, as the multivariate logistic regression showed no results of importance as they did not show different additional results compared to the displayed data in this manuscript, we choose not to present them in the manuscript. However, by accident this was still described in the methods section, which we choose to remove in this revision instead of presenting the table.

3. The effect of playing an instrument on the occurrence of musculoskeletal complaints was expressed as association instead of influence.

4. Text changes were made following your comments in the abstract, on page 10, 11, table 1, table 2.

5. On page 9 ‘‘The music academy students were comparable with the medical students with respect to age, gender…’ there was no significant difference when medical students were compared with music academy students (However, in case of the original presented table (two medical students and one music academy group) there was indeed a significant difference.) As we choose to display the results of two instead of three groups we did not make a text change.

6. Concerning the presentation of complaints specified per localization (21) instead of body region (6) we choose to add a fourth table, presenting the occurrence of complaints during the last twelve months specified by localization. This gives a clear overview over the spread of complaints. However, we choose not to present point prevalences, as the numbers will be very small and thereby the percentages inaccurate.

7. Formatting changes were made following the instructions

8. We choose not to acknowledge anyone

We hope you agree with the changes made in the manuscript.

On behalf of all authors,

Laura Kok