Author's response to reviews

Title: The transition of reported pain in different body regions - a one-year follow-up study

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

Thank you for the reviews. We would like to thank the reviewers for further valuable and insightful suggestions, which have improved the manuscript. Changes are made as suggested and are explained point by point below.

Author's response to reviewers

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

On re-reading the text, I realize that the title could do well with a change. I propose: "The transition of reported pain in different body regions - a one-yr follow-up study of the general Swedish population".

*We thank for the suggestion. In an effort to keep it short but clear it is now changed to; The transition of reported pain in different body regions - a one-year follow-up study*

I insist, that you need to provide us with the base-line response rate, or if you are unable to do so, honestly report this to be the case. This applies to the abstract and your methods section "participants".

*The baseline response rate is added as percentage of the total population. This is now clarified in the method section and the abstract.*

Methods section, the para starting: "Assessment of possible selection bias". You should tell us which sociodemographic data you dealt with.

*This is now further clarified, Methods page 4 2nd para.*

In the Abstract, results: Please, specify that you are talking about the 1-yr prevalence, now that you have described it also elsewhere in the text.

*This is now added also under the results heading in the abstract.*

Background, 2nd para, 2nd sentence. "Pain at several regions has been recognized as a risk factor" is surely what you mean, not as "risk factors".

*This is corrected.*

Background, last para, last sentence: Please att "at baseline and", to make the sentence read:

"....simultaneously at baseline and at a one year follow-up..."

*The sentence has been revised.*
Results, last para: How did you classify the symptoms to check their consistency with the Kendall's Tau-B? Did you use identical subclassifications or was it enough that pain in the region was reported?

*Identical classifications were used. This is now further clarified in the text.*

Discussion, p.8, last para, first sentence. How can this study "add to the community"? Please rephrase. Something about the knowledge base, or the understanding in this community, perhaps?

*This has been extended, page 8, last para and in conclusions.*

#2 Reviewer's report

I have only two comments:

1. The rewritten sections are at times unclear because of typographical mistakes, and problems of language and grammar -I am sure that there are people within the research team who can edit this carefully. This is important I think for the reputation of the researchers and the journal. (I apologise for this rather arrogant remark from someone who does not have to write articles in another language, but my justification is that the Scandinavians now set higher standards for the quality of English articles than the English themselves!).

*The introduction section is revised in attempt to correct typographical errors and language issues.*

2. The ending of the conclusion of the paper and its abstract is rather abrupt. I do feel it needs a few short sentences summarising the importance and relevance of the findings -for pain management, for public health or for resource allocation.

*The conclusion of the paper and abstract is now extended to include a summary and implications of the findings.*

We hope that the changes made clarify the points raised. We would be happy to address any further comments.

Yours sincerely,

Christina Gummesson