Author's response to reviews

Title: Surgery is more cost-effective than splinting for carpal tunnel syndrome in the Netherlands. Results of an economic evaluation alongside a randomized controlled trial.

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Author's response to reviews:

Below you will find information of how we answered the queries of the reviewers. We have accepted all suggestions made by the reviewers and adjusted the manuscript accordingly. The changes are marked yellow in the manuscript.

Reviewer Vilh Finsen

Major revisions:

We have moved the paragraph on recalculation of absenteeism excluding patients with long periods of work absenteeism from the discussion to the results section.

Minor revisions:

Abstract: we have deleted "statistically significant"

Discretionary revisions:

We have checked this and noticed that the reviewer was right. The prevalence for women in the Netherlands is not 9.2% but 3.4%. We have changed this.

We have deleted "is a common disorder".

We have changed "out-of-pocket expenses" into "over-the-counter medication".

We have deleted "However" and put "As".

Reviewer Robert A Werner
Major revisions:

We have changed the title as suggested.

Discretionary revisions:

The problem of the outliers with long periods of work absenteeism has been dealt with in the sensitivity analysis. One of the sensitivity analyses uses the Friction Cost Approach, in which the friction period of 122 days is the maximum period of work absenteeism that contributes to the indirect costs. The results of this sensitivity analysis were not different from the results of the primary analysis. We have included this in the paragraph on sensitivity analysis in the results section on page 10.