Author’s response to reviews

Title: Work-related musculoskeletal disorders among Nigerian Physiotherapists.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dr. Linda A. Merlino,

Thank you for your comments and suggestions. Please find below my responses and corrections as suggested:

Major Revisions

1. Methods- page 4
Paragraph 3- Information on computation of Fisher’s exact test for cases with fewer than 5 in a cell has been included (Page 4, paragraph 3, line 7-8). The p- values for items with fewer than 5 in the table is now based on Fisher’s value (Table 3: age group, gender, work status, work setting, ergonomic training and postgraduate training). The “number of hours per week in direct patient care” has been deleted as suggested.

2. Results- Work factors- page 5.
The percentages of work factors as previously computed from the overall 126 sample is now based on valid percentages from the 115 participants with WRMDs (page 5, paragraph 5, line 10, 11 and 12 respectively). The correct valid percentages now reflect in the table (table 4)

3. Results- Coping Strategies- page 5
The numbers presented in the text have been harmonized with those in the table and the percentages of coping strategies is now based on the 115 participants with WRMDs rather than the total sample size (page 5, paragraph 6, line 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively). The correct valid percentages now reflect in the table (table 5). The column in the last category on the table indicates “missing values” from participants with WRMDs. The appropriate term “No Response” has been substituted (table 5).

4. Table 4 has been changed to one column with percentages now in parenthesis and “number of respondents” used as the column heading (table 4).

Minor Revisions.

1. Abstract- page 2, paragraph 2.
Line 1: Methods: “the survey was conducted among” changed to “the survey was administered to” as suggested.

Line 3: The phrase “number of males and females physiotherapists” has been deleted and the sentence rephrased as “Two hundred…… self administration and 126 physiotherapists returned completed surveys for a 58.1% response”.

2. Background- page 3.
Paragraph 3, line 1: The phrase “Trend in research” has been replaced with “Some research” as suggested.
3. Background- page 3:
Paragraph 3, line 6: The sentence “The physically demanding nature of the physiotherapy profession seems to contribute to high prevalence and development…..” has been changed to read “The physically demanding nature of the physiotherapy profession may contribute to the occurrence of WRMDs resulting in a high prevalence”, as suggested.

4. Background- page 3.
Paragraph 4, line 7- We have replaced the word “features” with the word “work factors” and used consistently throughout the text (Abstract: page 1, paragraph 1, line 3, paragraph 3, line 8, paragraph 4, line 3; Background: page 3, paragraph 4, line 7 and 10; Methods: page 4, paragraph 2, line 6; Result: page 5- work factors, line 1, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 12; Discussion: page 6, paragraph 1, line 1; page 7, paragraph 4, line 1, 7, 10 and 11; page 8, paragraph 1, line 3, 5, 8 and 10; page 9, paragraph 3, line 2; Conclusion: page 9, line 3).

5. Results- page 5- prevalence
Paragraph 1- The grammatical mistake has been corrected and sentence now reads “The 12- month prevalence of WRMDs in different body parts compared to the findings of previous similar studies is presented in Table 2”

6. Results- page 5- Prevalence
Paragraph 2- Corrections effected as suggested thus “Table 3 presents the respondents’ characteristics. Gender (p= 0.007) and BMI (p= 0.04) were the only factors that differed between those who did or did not report a WRMD”.

7. Results- page 5- Onset of Injury.
Line 3- The typographical error “(Figure) 1)” has been corrected as (Figure 1) and the statement “(Data not shown)” has been included at the end of the paragraph (line 4).

8. Results- page 5- Effects of WRMDs
The statement “(Data not shown)” has been included at the end of the paragraph (line 3).

9. Results- page 5- Work Factors
Heading- The heading “Job Risk Factors” has been changed to “Work Factors” as suggested.

10. Results- Page 5- Work Factors
The words “Irrelevant” and “Significant” have been changed to the words “Not important” and “Important” respectively (line 4, 6, 7, 9 and 12).

Paragraph 3, first sentence- The word “implicitly has been deleted and the sentence rephrased to read “Our study found a significantly higher prevalence of WRMDs among female physiotherapists”. The word “Thus” has been deleted in the next sentence as suggested.
12. Table 4-
The title of the table has been changed to “Work Factors that physiotherapists identified as contributors to WRMDs”.
Thank you for your comments and suggestions. Please find below the corrected revisions.

Minor essential revisions.
1. Background, paragraph 1: The names “Smedley” and “Burdof” have been correctly spelt (Page 3, line 12 and page 10, reference 11 respectively).

2. Background, page 3, paragraph 3: The phrase “Trend in research” has been replaced with “Some research” as suggested by the second reviewer.

3. Background, paragraph 3: The word “development” has been replaced with “occurrence” (line 7). The statement credited to Borke (under discussion, page 6, paragraph 3, line 3) has been similarly rephrased. The word “development” has been used consistently through out the text
   - Results- page 5- Work factor- line 3.
   - Discussion- page 6- paragraph 3- line 5.
   - Discussion- page 7- paragraph 4- line 2 and 10.
   - Discussion- page 8- paragraph 1- line 5 and 7.

4. Background, paragraph 4: The sentence “Investigating….injuries” has been changed to “Investigating…. disorders” (line 8) and the word “disorders” has been used consistently throughout the manuscript.
   - Methods- page 4- paragraph 2- line 10 and 11.
   - Results- page 5- Prevalence- line 4.
   - Result- page 5- Onset of Disorder- Heading.
   - Discussion- page 8- paragraph 1- line 10.
   - Discussion- page 8- paragraph 2- line 6.

5. Discussion- page 6- paragraph 3: The word “controlling for size of data” has been deleted (line 15).

6. Discussion: The distinction between MSDs and WRMDs has been explicitly stated and the likelihood of respondents misconstruing all MSDs as WRMDs thereby affecting our finding has been highlighted (Discussion, page 7, paragraph 1, line 9-12; Limitation, page 9, paragraph 2, line 8- 13)