Author's response to reviews

Title: Knowledge and Attitude of Final Year Medical Students in Germany towards Palliative Care - an interinstitutional questionnaire-based study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To the
BMC Palliative Care
Editorial Board

Manuscript revision

Knowledge and Attitude of Final year Medical Students in Germany towards Palliative Care – an interinstitutional questionnaire-based study

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

We are very grateful for the reviewers´ helpful comments, and have listed in detail the performed changes and corrections:

Reviewer: Doreen Oneschuk

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. General comment on the paper: While the nature of the content is of interest, particularly for those involved with palliative medicine education, there is a need for furthering editing to improve the quality of the written English. A number of the sentences require a change in structure. Other words should be substituted for ‘profound’, ‘weak confidence’, ‘ought’, ‘obscure’, ‘weak self-esteem’, ‘installed’; use ‘mandatory’ instead of obligatory. Avoid the use of ‘supposed to’ in the Methods-Development of a questionnaire. I believe a thorough read through of the paper, and some assistance with the English language, will improve the paper.

Answer: The whole paper has been revised concerning the English language. These changes are marked in red.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Throughout the paper, there is reference to this being a questionnaire, and other times, a survey. Please be more consistent with this terminology throughout the paper.

Answer: The misleading term “survey” was replaced by the adequate terms (p. 4)

2. Who pretested the survey?

Answer: The survey was pretested by 10 medical students. This specification was added to the methods section (p. 4)

3. Remove the reference to the two tables from the Methods-Development of a
questionnaire section. They belong in the Results section.
Answer: Reference to the two tables has been removed (p 3 and 4)
4. Figure 1 should indicate that the results are for both schools combined.
Answer: The legend of the figure was clarified according to the reviewer’s suggestion
5. Table 1- include the numerical values of the responses, in addition to the percentages for each column.
Answer: Numerical values were included in table 1

Reviewer: Yoshihisa Hirakawa

I think that discussion of the article should include the comparison with other countries, and that the authors should discuss details of the curricula. It is unclear how palliative care is presently educated and how the compulsory implementation of palliative care would have an effect on the undergraduate curriculum.
Answer: The topics mentioned by the reviewer were added to the introduction and the discussion. However a detailed discussion of details of different curricula in our view surpasses the scope of this article.

Tables should be also revised. There seems a lot of lines on the tables.
Answer: Tables were revised following the reviewers suggestion.

With very best wishes and kind regards,

Dr. Bernd Alt-Epping, corresponding author