Author's response to reviews

Title: To predict factors associated with Breast Self-Examination behavior in a sample of Iranian women: An Application of Health Belief Model

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Research article titled: To predict factors associated with Breast Self-Examination behavior in a sample of Iranian women: An Application of Health Belief Model
Laleh Hasani, Teamur Aghamolaei, Sedigheh Sadat Tavafian and Shahram Zare
submission to BMC Women's Health

Dear Natalie Pafitis MSc
Senior Assistant Editor
BMC-series Journals

Thank you very much for your e-mail. I am so pleased to hear from you regarding my manuscript and many other studies that have conducted in Iran in the field of Breast Self-Examination (BSE) behavior. Despite previous searches among different databases and identifying related works (Ref 5 & 6). I have searched http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/ to detect any more similar studies among Iranian population, as you recommended. What was the main difference between my work and others’ was application of health Belief Model for BSE which contains several primary concepts include susceptibility, seriousness, benefits and barriers to BSE, and most recently self efficacy that predict why people will take action to screen for breast cancer or to control this condition. According to this Model, if individuals regard themselves as susceptible to getting breast cancer, believe that the condition would have potentially serious consequences, believe that a course of action available to them would be beneficial in reducing either their susceptibility to or severity of the condition and believe the anticipated benefits of taking action outweigh the barriers to (or cost of action), they are likely to take action that they believe will reduce their risks. This model has not applied in other studies that conducted in Iran regarding breast self examination (I have added these studies to the list of references).
Another outstanding advance of my study over what has already been documented in others, is that in this research a standard instrument such as Champion’s revised Health Belief Model Scale (CHBMS) was used for data collection while in studies by others the instruments were developed by own researchers that might not measure the variables exactly.
The CHBMS is a commonly used instrument to measure the Health Belief Model (HBM) variables. The latest version of the scale was scientifically adapted for this study as mentioned in the manuscript.
At the end, I really would like to thank you again for your time and patience. I hope this manuscript meets the criteria to proceed reviewing process.

I wish all the best for you.
Most sincerely,

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