Author's response to reviews

Title: Patient satisfaction of primary care for musculoskeletal diseases: A comparison between Neural Therapy and conventional medicine

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Sirs

Thank you reviewing our article entitled “Patient satisfaction of primary care for musculoskeletal diseases: A comparison between Neural Therapy and conventional medicine”.

According to the comments of the reviewer, we revised our article. The following page of this document provides a summary of our revisions. A complete overview of all changes in the article is also made visible in an accompanying document.

We now resubmit the article for your consideration to be evaluated by the committee of reviewers.

We look forward to your thoughts and comments regarding this article.

- Yours sincerely
- A. Busato

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1. We specified the variables that were dichotomized for statistical analysis in the methods section. We are, however, reluctant to remove a description of the respective procedures from the results section as we are not convinced that this may helpful to understand the text. We also improved and clarified the results section and the tables in this context.

2. A paragraph aimed at potential sources of bias was added to the section limitations of the study

3.
We are currently working on another manuscript aimed at financial aspects of NT within Swiss primary care. This manuscript will provide, if published, an in depth analysis of effects related to different consultation length in NT and COM. We nevertheless extended the discussion in this context and provided additional references.

4

Most physicians providing NT were established in a primary care setting which is characterized by generally long lasting relationships between physicians and patients. However, we collected no data on preexisting work incapacity attestations and we can therefore only assume of that such attestations were issued in a comparable way between the two groups of physicians. We added a paragraph describing this problem in the limitations section.

5,

We added the results of a patient based evaluation of the severity of adverse side to table 4 and clarified this issue in the respective paragraph of the discussion; but small sample prevents a further interpretation of these data.

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