Author's response to reviews

Title: Older cancer patients' information and support needs surrounding treatment: An evaluation through the eyes of patients, relatives and professionals

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Version: 4 Date: 16 January 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Production Team,

We are delighted to hear that our manuscript ‘Older cancer patients’ information and support needs surrounding treatment: An evaluation through the eyes of patients, relatives and professionals’ (MS: 8817633342174546) is accepted for publication in BMC Nursing. We have checked our manuscript carefully and would like to make some last, minor changes. Enclosed you find a revised version of our manuscript. All changes are summed up below.

On behalf of the other authors,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. E.R. Posma,
researcher
- P. 2 Abstract – Methods: “A total number of 38 patients and relatives participated, with a mean age of 67.61 years (SD = 4.95).” Is changed into:
“A total number of 38 patients and relatives participated, with a mean age of 67.6 years.”

- P. 2 Abstract - Conclusion:
“Patient education should be more tailored to older cancer patients’ individual and support needs” is changed into:
“Patient education should be more tailored to older cancer patients’ individual information and support needs”

- P. 3 Summary:
“Communication training for nurses and the use of aids such as a question prompt sheet could be useful tools to adapt to specific information needs.” Is changed into:
“To adapt to specific information needs, communication training for nurses and the use of aids such as a question prompt sheet could be useful tools.”

- P. 3: “Providing patients with adequate information is an important component of care, as benefits of good patient education…..” Is changed into:
“Providing patients with adequate information, advice and support around treatment is an important component of care, in which nurses play an important role. The benefits of good patient education…..”

- P. 3: “Personal relevance determines for a large part whether information will receive attention or not” is changed into:
“Personal relevance determines for a large part whether information will receive attention by a patient or not”

- P. 4: “Older individuals’ information needs might differ from the needs of younger patients, since their perceptions of cancer and treatment seems to differ from younger patients, …”. Is changed into:
“Older individuals’ information needs might differ from the needs of younger patients, since their perceptions of cancer and treatment seem to differ from younger patients,”
- P. 4: “Thus, it is crucial to gain insight in the needs of older individuals…..” Is changed into:
  “Thus, it is crucial to gain insight in the information and support needs of older individuals…..”

- P. 5: “Nurses play an important role in providing cancer patients with information, advice and support surrounding treatment. This article describes the views of both older cancer patients and professionals, on patients’ specific information needs preceding chemotherapy. ……” is changed into:
  “Nurses play an important role in providing cancer patients with information, advice and support surrounding treatment. This article describes the views of both older cancer patients and professionals, on patients’ specific information needs preceding chemotherapy. ……”

- P. 5: Research question 2: “What are the needs of older cancer patients facing chemotherapy treatment?” is changed into:
  : “What are the information and support needs of older cancer patients facing chemotherapy treatment?”

- P. 6: “Eligible patients were sent or given a letter by the hospital nurse, explaining the study aims and demands as well as the reassurance that anonymity was guaranteed and refusing to participate would not influence their treatment.” Is changed into:
  “Eligible patients were sent or given a letter by the hospital nurse, explaining the study aims and demands as well as explaining that anonymity was guaranteed and refusing to participate would not influence their treatment.”

- P. 6: “Personal information (e.g. name and address) was securely stored separately from the data collected in the interviews to make sure that the identity of participants was not identifiable.” Is changed into:
  “Personal information (e.g. name and address) was securely stored separately from the data collected in the interviews to make sure that the participants were not identifiable.”
- P. 9: “The identity of the participants is not personally identifiable.” Is changed into:
  “The participants are not personally identifiable.”

- P. 9: “The findings reflect patients’ and professionals’ opinions”. Is changed into:
  “The findings reflect patients’, relatives’ and professionals’ opinions.

- P. 12: Heading “Exploring the patient’s needs and tailoring information” is changed into:
  “Exploring patients’ needs and tailoring information”

- P. 16: “According to a patient group and interviewees, nurses’ skills to tailor information
  to the patients’ specific needs has to be improved.” Is changed into:
  “According to a patient group and interviewees, nurses’ skills to tailor information to the
  patients’ specific needs have to be improved.”

- P. 20: “This article describes patients’ and professionals’ opinions about older cancer
  patients’ needs preceding cancer treatment.” Is changed into:
  “This article describes patients’, relatives’ and professionals’ opinions about older cancer
  patients’ needs preceding cancer treatment.”

- P. 21: “Research also shows that older adults may have higher levels of psychological
  resources, such as the ability to adjust their goals to unchangeable circumstances [35],
  also, older patients seem to need less support in coping with the disease and treatment
  than younger patients do [21].” Is changed into:
  “Research also shows that older adults may have higher levels of psychological resources,
  such as the ability to adjust their goals to unchangeable circumstances [35]. Besides, older
  patients seem to need less support in coping with the disease and treatment than younger
  patients do [21].”

- P. 23: “It has been suggested that consolidation follow-up sessions are required to
  facilitate maintenance of newly acquired skills and their transfer into the clinical practice
  [46,47].” Is changed into:
“However, it has been suggested that consolidation follow-up sessions are required to facilitate maintenance of newly acquired skills and their transfer into the clinical practice [46,47].”

- P. 24: “To summarize, this study gives insight in patients’ and professionals’ views on patient education for older cancer patients.” Is changed into:
  “To summarize, this study gives insight in patients’, relatives’ and professionals’ views on patient education for older cancer patients.”

- P. 25: “Information should be provided more structured and spread out over different time points” Is changed into:
  “Information should be provided more structured and spread out over different moments”

- P. 35 tabel 4: below table “x = opinion is expressed in focus group”. Is changed into:
  “x = opinion is expressed by participants”