Author's response to reviews

Title: Comparison of breast and bowel cancer screening uptake patterns in a common cohort of South Asian women in England

Authors:

Charlotte L Price (charlotte.price@warwick.ac.uk)
Ala K Szczepura (Ala.Szczepura@warwick.ac.uk)
Anil K Gumber (a.k.gumber@warwick.ac.uk)
Julietta Patnick (Julietta.Patnick@cancerscreening.nhs.uk)

Version: 6 Date: 28 January 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

Enclosed is a revised version of the paper ‘MS: 1286118942267092 - Comparison of breast and bowel cancer screening uptake patterns in a common cohort of South Asian women in England’.

We would like to thank the reviewer for the useful additional comments, and have incorporated the suggestions, as far as possible, into the updated manuscript.

Specific responses to the two points raised are as follows:

1. Change the text to ensure that readers understand clearly that the effectiveness of screening cannot be gauged from the survival times, rather only from mortality.

   **Response:** The text has been amended to clarify that five-year survival cannot be used to measure the effect of screening (Background section lines 8-11). It is acknowledged that the majority of the survival advantage can be attributed to stage shift.

2. From the literature report on the absolute risk reduction so that readers can grasp the real effect of screening.

   **Response:** Additional figures have been added to the text to enable the reader to gain a feel for the real effect of screening (Background section lines 11-13 and 17-22). While the authors agree that absolute risk reduction is superior to relative measures, a thorough review of the evidence has concluded that absolute risk reduction is not readily reported.

Kind regards,

Dr Charlotte Price