Author's response to reviews

Title: Accuracy of responses from postal surveys about continuing medical education and information behaviour: experiences from a survey among German diabetologists

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PDF covering letter
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Title: Accuracy of responses from postal surveys about continuing medical education and information behavior: experiences from a survey among German diabetologists

Author: Sven Trelle (trelle@uni-hamburg.de)

Dear Dr. Sawyerr

Enclosed please find the re-revised manuscript (changes are underlined).

Abstract

1. (non-response-bias): I added (page 2; line 14-15) "Non-response bias is possible but seems not very likely since an association between demographic variables and inconsistent responses could not be found."

Methods

1. (questionnaire development): I added (p 5; l 8-9): "It was discussed with members of the research group and sent to experts requesting comments (a statistician, practicing diabetologists, experts in evidence-based medicine, technology assessment, survey methodology, and continuing medical education)."

2. (knowledge-score): I added (p 7, l 11-13): "A knowledge-score was calculated for each respondent using responses to the question about technical terms (All items/technical terms were included except the McNemar-Quality-Scale."

Discussion

1. (length of instrument/busy practitioners): I added (p 14; l 3-6) "... (which again might have been resulted from the long questionnaire or busy respondents although an association between the weekly hours of work and positive responses could not be found. Checked for variable 4; data not shown) ...

2. (ambiguously worded questions): see p 14; l 6-8

3. (non-response bias): see p 11; l 13-16

Conclusions

1. I rearranged this section a little bit and added (p 15; l 9-10) "However in order to understand response biases and the processes involved qualitative studies are needed." (p 15; l 12) "... but further research is necessary to validate it. ..."

References


Tables

1. (Tables 3 and 4): I added/changed (p 23-24) "* positive/inconsistent responses bold"

Appendix
1. I added: "Distilled form of the actual questionnaire (only the relevant questions for this analysis are shown). Original questions were in German. The layout of the questions is slightly different compared to the original questionnaire (the original questionnaire is available from the author)."

Yours sincerely,

Sven Trelle