Author's response to reviews

Title: Lack of risk information causes overestimation of effectiveness in colorectal cancer screening: Analysis using the Analytic Hierarchy Process

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Dear Dr. James G Dolan and the Editorial Office

Thank you very much for re-reviewing our manuscript. We have addressed your comments with point-by-point responses, and re-revised the manuscript accordingly.

Reviewers' comments:
Dr. James G Dolan:
Major compulsory revisions
1) Page 11, under baseline characteristics: the proportion of inconsistent respondents (19%) should be added to the text.
   We added the proportion of inconsistent respondents to the text.

2) Similarly, the percents in each column should be added to Table 1 to make it easier to compare the different groups presented, as they all have different numbers of subjects.
   We added the proportion of each column to Table 1.

3) Page 14, conclusion: Given the limitations, especially finding differences between the groups in their assessments of effectiveness, I do not think the authors can conclude that the results showed a direct association between the lack of risk information and the differences in priorities assigned to effectiveness and risks of the two procedures. I think a better conclusion is that these results suggest there is a relationship. I also think the results apply primarily to the importance of being well informed regarding colorectal cancer screening options; there is no information presented to show that this is important for choosing "healthcare programs. Extrapolating the results of this study to the more general case is not supported by the data presented and should be avoided.
We appreciate your suggestion. Our conclusion was changed as follows: In the present study, we investigated whether risk information affects people’s preferences to colorectal cancer screening using AHP. The results suggest that there is a relationship between the lack of risk information and the differences in priorities assigned to effectiveness and risks of the two procedures. Patients should be well informed of both the risks and benefits before making decisions on selecting colorectal cancer screening options.

The original title “Lack of risk information causes overestimation of effectiveness in colorectal cancer screening” was changed into “Relationship between risk information on total colonoscopy and patient preferences for colorectal cancer screening options”.