Author’s response to reviews

Title: A post-trial survey to assess the impact of dissemination of results and unmasking on participants in a 13-year randomised controlled trial on age-related cataract

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Snowdon,

Please find enclosed a point-by-point response to your concerns that we have addressed in a revised manuscript. We have highlighted in yellow all changes made when revising the manuscript to make it easier for you to review it.

Please let us know if you have any further suggestions.

Best regards

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**Point-by-point response to your comments**

1) We have incorporated the text exactly as you wrote it; we have only added “with a pre-paid return envelope” in the first sentence after your text otherwise this piece of information would have been omitted.

2) P10.
Thank you very much for drawing our attention to this issue that we all overlooked.
It is definitely an “important finding” because:

- it gives voice to our patients,
- it suggests that we correctly conveyed the results.
After your feedback we feel that the paper “makes more sense”.

We have modified the sentence in the discussion: “In fact almost 20% of the participants expressed some concern: 2.6% of the participants answered that they experienced concern after receiving the results and 17.2% declared that they felt “both satisfaction and concern”.

We have also modified the conclusions in the abstract: “…the vast majority of participants reported satisfaction after they received the results but almost 20% of the participants expressed some concern”.

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A post-trial survey to assess the impact of dissemination of results and unmasking on participants in a 13-year randomised controlled trial on age-related cataract Sally L Williams, Luigina Ferrigno, Giovanni Maraini, Francesco Rosmini and Robert D Sperduto.
3) P11.
We have followed your suggestions in discussing the limitations of the study:
“...We recognise the limitations of our post-trial survey, which, by design, is subject to potential bias. We cannot exclude the possibility that differences in the characteristics of responders and non-responders (see age, sex and lower education in Table 2) may have affected the findings for our study population. Potential biases may have been introduced by the questionnaires which were not validated and did not use Likert scales.”