Author's response to reviews

Title: Development of an online information and support resource for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients considering surgery: perspectives of health care providers

Authors:

Radha MacCulloch (radha.macculloch@sickkids.ca)
Joyce Nyhof-Young (joyce.nyhof-young@uhn.on.ca)
David Nicholas (nicholas@ucalgary.ca)
Sandra Donaldson (sandra.donaldson@sickkids.ca)
James G Wright (james.wright@sickkids.ca)

Version: 4 Date: 21 June 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
June 21, 2010

To The Scoliosis Editorial Team:

Thank you for your careful review of the manuscript entitled, *Development of an online information and support resource for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients considering surgery: perspectives of health care providers* (MS: 1317292791351498).

The authors have read the reviewer’s feedback and integrated the suggested revision into the paper. This change has been highlighted in yellow. Please find the reviewer’s comments and suggestions below accompanied by our responses.

Sincerely,

Radha MacCulloch
Joyce Nyhof-Young
David Nicholas
Sandra Donaldson
James G Wright
3rd Review

Reviewer: Mr Joseph O'Brien

Reviewer's report: Discretionary Revisions

Thank you for your response to the second review and explanation as to why there were no references to your competitive analysis. "The research team did not seek to publish the results from the quantitative competitive analysis as online websites and resources change constantly, potentially rendering the details of this analysis obsolete. However, the general findings from this analysis remain pertinent to the purpose of this paper..."

Your point regarding the changing nature of online websites is well taken. As such, my final recommendation is that you provide the date your analysis was completed to help put your detail and general findings in proper perspective for the reader.

Response:

Thank you very much for your careful review of our manuscript. Your feedback and comments were most insightful and helpful.

Your suggestion has been included on page 4 of the manuscript. Please see below:

A review of traditional (non-web-based) patient information and support literature in scoliosis using conventional retrieval sources such as MedLine, CINAHL, M(edica) (European and Asian Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation search engine), as well as web-based resources using health website search engines (e.g., sympatico [http://www1.sympatico.ca], Yahoo Health [http://www.yahoo.com/Health/Children_s_Health]) was conducted in 2005 to determine the quantity and quality of existing information and support resources for AIS patients and their families.