Author's response to reviews

Title: Population screening for hereditary and familial cancer syndromes in Valka district of Latvia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir,

On behalf on author’s collective (Andrejs Vanags, Ilze Štrumfa, Andris Gardovskis, Viktors Borošenko, Arnis Āboliņš, Uldis Teibe, Genadijs Trofimovičs, Edvīns Miklaševičs, Jānis Gardovskis) I would like to thank the reviewers for the useful suggestions.

We agree with all the recommendations. Encountering all the recommendations, the following changes have been done:

1. The fact that cancer family history practically is able to identify only cancer family syndromes characterized by monogenic dominant highly penetrant inheritance pattern is recognized in the Background (paragraph 2, sentence 2) and Discussion (paragraph 7, sentences 4-5).

2. The fact that hereditary background can be found for practically all cancers is recognized in the Background (paragraph 1, sentence 4). An appropriate literature citation is added (Ref.N.2).

3. The fact that the crucial value of population screening relies not only on surveillance but also prevention and treatment options is recognized in the Discussion (paragraph 6, sentence 5). Appropriate literature citations are added (Ref.N.21, 22).
4. The remark of Reviewer 2 was found to be very useful. We have added the data about breast and ovarian cancer frequency and incidence rate in BRCA1 founder mutation carriers and mutation-negative tested persons. Appropriate statistical estimates with 95% confidence interval analysis are also performed (Results, the last paragraph, sentences 3-6). The interpretation of the data is done in the Discussion (paragraph 12).

Thus, all the recommendations are implemented.

Sincerely Yours,

Andrejs Vanags