Author's response to reviews

Title: Should methodological filters for diagnostic test accuracy studies be used in systematic reviews of psychometric instruments? A case study involving screening for postnatal depression

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
The Editor
Systematic Reviews
26th July 2011
Dear Sir,
Re: Re-submission of revised manuscript 7049840505548519

We wish to re-submit our revised manuscript for your consideration. Please find enclosed in our submission our responses to the reviewers according to the requested tabulated format (see below). We have submitted a copy of the revised manuscript with tracked changes and a ‘clean’ version of the revised manuscript as an additional file. Please accept our apologies for the format of the previous abstract; as we were submitting a methods paper, we therefore followed the guidance for methodology articles by mistake.

We appreciate your consideration of our revised manuscript for publication within your journal and look forward to your response in due course. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries.

Yours Faithfully,

Rachel Mann (MSc Health Services Research and Health Technology Assessment)

Professor Simon Gilbody (DPhil Health Services Research, FRCPsych, FRSA)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewer 1 Comment</th>
<th>Author Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Page 5 New text awkwardly worded: The Cochrane DTA Handbook advises against adding a methodological filter therefore this method was the third search strategy tested using only components related to the target condition and index test, and is hereafter referred to as the ‘Cochrane search’</td>
<td>Changed as recommended on page 5</td>
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<td>2. Page 6 New text awkwardly worded: Whilst the Cochrane search and CRD filter search identified this study, the Vincent filter search failed to identify the DTA study of the questions with the gold standard comparator [20]; the most important and pertinent paper to the systematic review of DTA of this psychometric measure for postnatal depression</td>
<td>Changed as recommended on page 6</td>
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<td>3. Page 7 New text awkwardly worded: The Vincent filter search included specific filter terms to identify DTA studies and the overall total number of studies retrieved was low so precision was slightly higher than the Cochrane search; however sensitivity was low and it failed to retrieve a DTA study which used a gold standard diagnostic criteria, the only study in the reference set to do so</td>
<td>Changed as recommended on page 7</td>
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The authors have also tried to address the issue raised relating to semicolon use in other sentences on pages 6 and 7.
### Reviewer 2 Comment | Author Response
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1. Recommend change of manuscript title | Changed as recommended by reviewer