Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cardiac patients' perceptions of neighboring patients' risk: Influence on psychological stress in the ED and subsequent posttraumatic stress

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor:

We thank you for your continued consideration of our paper for publication and provide the following responses to your feedback.

1. Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your manuscript in the Declarations section. If verbal, please state the reason, clarify whether the ethics committee approved this procedure and whether participants were made aware of the nature of the study and could withdraw at any point of the research study.

   If the need for consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.

   RESPONSE: We have added a statement to the Declarations section confirming that written informed consent was obtained for all participants. (Declarations, Page 16, Line 343.)

2. It has come to our attention that throughout the manuscript there is significant text overlap with other publications. While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. We would therefore be grateful if you could provide a
justification for the overlap in text between your manuscript and other sources. Please be informed that we cannot proceed with handling your manuscript before this issue is resolved, and the sections of text in question have been reformulated. The report has been attached to further help your revisions.

Given that you have used similar methods in a previously published paper, there is no need to reproduce them here. Therefore, please amend your Methods section by providing only a brief description of the methods used in your current study, and to refer/cite your previous publication for the full methodology.

Although we recognise that text overlap will undoubtedly occur when your own or standard methods are being described, minimisation of text overlap remains the best practice for publication of articles and reproduction of large sections of text should not occur when it can be avoided.

Please note that the software used to detect overlaps is imperfect and highlights two or more consecutive matching words, therefore, please just focus on those whole sentences/paragraphs highlighted. If this study uses methodology from a previously published work, please provide a summarizing statement in the methodology together with a citation to the original paper.

RESPONSE: We have amended our Methods section to summarize the methodology of the REACH study, and cited previously published works from this study for the full methodology. (Methods, pages 5-7, lines 101-146.)

3. In the Funding section, please also describe the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

RESPONSE: We have added a statement to the Funding section declaring the funding body had no role in any of the above activities. (Declarations, Page 18, line 353.)

4. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of Beatrice Konrad as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to leading of the writing team alone, does not usually justify authorship.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have:

a) made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; AND

b) been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
c) given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; AND

d) agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Anyone listed as an author must be included in this section. If you choose to change your author list you will need to fill out a change in authorship form and send it by email to the Editorial office to be approved by the Editor. The form can be found here: https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#authorship.

Anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship can be acknowledged in the ‘Acknowledgements’ section.

RESPONSE: Beatrice Konrad was involved in the conception of the research inquiry and the analysis and interpretation of data. She was the first author of the manuscript draft and has been involved in every revision throughout the editorial process. She has given final approval of the version to be published and agrees to be accountable for all aspects of the work. The Authors’ contribution section has been amended to reflect this. (Declarations, Page 18, 355-361.)

5. Presently, your abstract exceeds the 350 word limit that is part of the journal requirements. Please revise this section so it meets the required word limit. For more information, please visit: https://bmcemergmed.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article

RESPONSE: We have amended the abstract to meet the 350 character limit. (Abstract, Page 2-3.)

Thank you again for your consideration, we look forward to hearing from you.