Author's response to reviews

Title: Pain in Dementia: prevalence and associated factors. Protocol of a multidisciplinary study.

Authors:

Janine van Kooten (j.vankooten2@vumc.nl)
Suzanne Delwel (s.delwel@vu.nl)
Tarik T. Binnekade (t.t.binnekade@vu.nl)
Martin Smalbrugge (m.smalbrugge@vumc.nl)
Hans C van der Wouden (j.vanderwouden@vumc.nl)
Roberto S.G.M. Perez (rsgm.perez@vumc.nl)
Didi Rhebergen (d.rhebergen@ggzingeest.nl)
Wouter W.A. Zuurmond (wwa.zuurmond@vumc.nl)
Max L. Stek (M.Stek@ggzingeest.nl)
Frank Lobbezoo (f.lobbezoo@acta.nl)
Cees M.P.M. Hertogh (cmpm.hertogh@vumc.nl)
Erik J.A. Scherder (eja.scherder@vu.nl)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Giulia Mangiameli,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled: "Pain in Dementia: Prevalence and associated factors. Protocol of a multidisciplinary study." which we would like to submit for publication as a Study protocol in BMC Geriatrics.

Pain is a common problem in people with dementia and up to now limited studies have included dementia subtype as a factor in pain in people with dementia. Current knowledge about the prevalence of specific types of pain, e.g., musculoskeletal pain or neuropathic pain, and causes of pain in people with dementia is also limited. Orofacial pain is one of the most prevalent types of pain in older people, and has hardly been studied in people with dementia. Assessment of the specific type of pain and classifying probable causes would be a valuable addendum in the assessment of pain in people with dementia.

To our knowledge this is the first study investigating pain in the four main dementia subtypes and examining the relationship between different types of pain and different dementia subtypes, i.e., AD, VaD, FTD and DLB.

This study protocol provides a detailed account of the hypothesis, rationale en methodology of the study. As such this study should be of interest to a broad readership including those interested in dentistry, dementia, pain medicine and (psycho)geriatrics.

We have obtained ethical approval for this study from the ethics committee of VU University Medical Center (see email attachments).

We confirm that this manuscript is the first publication of this study, has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with submission to BMC Geriatrics.

We confirm that the protocol is for a study that is ‘ongoing’. Currently, the investigators are still collecting data and they expect to finish data collection by the end of 2015.
The study has received external funding from 6 different funding bodies i.e. Amstelring, Alzheimer Nederland, Fonds Nuts Ohra, Roomsch Catholiek Oude Armen Kantoor (RCOAK), Stichting Beroepsopleiding Huisartsen (SBOH) and Stichting Henriëtte Hofje. The study protocol did not undergo peer-review by one of the funding bodies. The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

We have forwarded the requested documentation to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

We hope that the changes that we have made are sufficient to start the peer review process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to:

J van Kooten, Phd Student Elderly Care Medicine
Department of General practice & Elderly Care Medicine
VU University Medical Center Amsterdam
Van der Boechorststraat 7, room H-463
1081 BT Amsterdam
The Netherlands
T.+31 20 444 96 77
E. j.vankooten2@vumc.nl

Yours Sincerely,

Janine van Kooten
Phd Student Elderly Care Medicine