Author's response to reviews

Title: Detecting dementia in patients with normal neuropsychological screening by Short Smell Test and Palmo-Mental Reflex Test: an observational study

Authors:

Sven Streit (sven.streit@biham.unibe.ch)
Andreas Limacher (andreas.limacher@ctu.unibe.ch)
Andreas Zeller (andreas.zeller@unibas.ch)
Markus Bürge (m.buerge@bluewin.ch)

Version: 4 Date: 7 July 2015

Author's response to reviews:

Sven Streit, MD
Institute of Primary Health Care BIHAM
University of Bern
Gesellschaftsstrasse 49
3012 Bern, Switzerland
Phone: +41 31 631 58 89
Fax: +41 31 631 58 71
Email: sven.streit@biham.unibe.ch Bern, July 7th, 2015

Dr. David Vance
Associate Editor
Neurology, stroke and cognition
BMC Geriatrics

2nd revision of manuscript 1939904096166052 titled "Detecting dementia in patients with normal neuropsychological screening Short Smell Test and Palmo-Mental Reflex Test: an observational study"

Dear Dr. David Vance,

We are grateful for the acceptance of our manuscript in BMC Geriatrics. As requested we revised our paper according to your comments as stated in the point-by-point response below.

We thank you for the opportunity to improve our work, and hope it meets your expectations.

Sincerely,
Sven Streit

Editorial comments:

1. STROBE: as the article is an observational cross-sectional study it must adhere to STROBE guidelines. Please find the checklist and fill in the necessary sections.

We acknowledge the importance of adhering to guidelines in order to strengthen the reporting in studies. Therefore, we thoroughly applied STROBE guidelines to prepare the first drafts of our manuscript. In order to meet the expectations of the Editors of BMC Geriatrics we again went through our paper and found no missing section or content as suggested by the STROBE guidelines. However, if the Editor thinks otherwise, we would be happy to adapt our manuscript to meet the STROBE guidelines.

2. Authors contribution: Authors should be listed by initials rather than full name ie. Sven Streit is SS

Adapted.

3. Proofreading: Get a native English speaker to go through this draft. For eg. on page 11, Line 4-5 is awkwardly phrased. Please reword for clarity.

Thank you for mentioning this error. We rephrased "Without good instructions PMR testing would be difficult to successfully implement PMR testing in primary care." on page 11, lines 4-5. In addition, we went through the whole manuscript again to provide clarity.

4. The financial disclosure section should be inserted into the acknowledgement section.

The financial disclosure is now inserted into the acknowledgement section.

5. The Abstract heading needs to be inserted into the manuscript on the top of page 2.

Heading inserted.

All co-authors approved the point-by-point reply and the revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Sven Streit, MD (first author, contact information on page 1)