Author’s response to reviews

**Title:** Frail-VIG index: a concise frailty evaluation tool for rapid geriatric assessment. Results of a 24-months prospective follow-up

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**Author’s response to reviews:**

Dear Prof. Hoogendijk:

Thank you for your comments and advice. Please find attached our response to the points that have been raised in your latest letter:

1. As a member of the editorial board (Roman Romero-Ortuno) of this journal, in order to ensure transparency, please declare this in the Competing Interests section of the Declarations.

**REPLY:**

We have added the following phrase in the "conflicts of interest" section: “RRO is a member of the editorial board of BMC Geriatrics”.
2. In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section of your declarations please can you detail how you determined which participants could give consent on their own behalf, and which participants required consent to be given by a proxy.

REPLY:
We have changed the wording to make it clearer: "All patients enrolled in the study provided written informed consent for participation or, if this was not possible due to advanced dementia situation (GDS≥ 6), by close family relatives”.

3. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of RO, NMB, MI and RRO as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to analysis alone, does not usually justify authorship.

REPLY:
As specified in the manuscript, each of the authors has contributed to each of the 4 points of the ICMJE guidelines: “JAN, JCM, JE and NMB designed the study. JAN, JE, JCM, RO, NMB, MI and RRO conducted the analysis. All authors contributed to the interpretation of the findings and preparation of the manuscript and approved the final version”.

In outline format:

1. JAN: A1+A2+A3+B+C+D
2. JCM: A1+A3+B+C+D
3. JE: A1+A3+B+C+D
4. RO: A3+B+C+D
5. NMB: A1+A2+A3+B+C+D
6. MI: A3+B+C+D
7. RRO: A3+B+C+D

Legend:

(A) Substantial contributions in manuscript:
   A1. Conception and design
   A2. Acquisition of data
   A3. Analysis & interpretation of data

(B) Drafting or revising critically the manuscript

(C) Final approval of the version published

(D) Accountability for all aspects of the work

Nevertheless, we have modified this section to be more explicit:

“JAN, JCM, JE and NMB were responsible for the conception and design of the study. JAN and NMB coordinated and substantially contributed to the data collection. JCC and RO performed the statistical analysis. All authors (JAN, JE, JCM, RO, NMB, MI and RRO) were involved in interpretation of data. JAN wrote the initial draft of the manuscript and all of the other authors (JE, JCM, RO, NMB, MI and RRO) revised the manuscript critically for important intellectual content. All authors (JAN, JE, JCM, RO, NMB, MI and RRO) have provided final approval of the version of the manuscript submitted for publication. All authors (JAN, JE, JCM, RO, NMB, MI and RRO) agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work”.
4. Please remove the response letter form your file inventory, as it is no longer needed

5. At this stage, we ask that you submit a clean version of your manuscript and do not include track changes or highlighting.

REPLY:

We will proceed to do so during the current submission process

Thank you once again for your valuable input, which has helped us immensely to improve the final version of this manuscript. We would be happy to provide any additional information if needed.

Sincerely,

Jordi Amblàs-Novellas,
Joan Carles Martori,
Joan Espaulella,
Ramon Oller,
Núria Molist-Brunet,
Marco Inzitari
Roman Romero-Ortuno.