Author’s response to reviews

Title: A Comparison of Symptoms in Older Hospitalised Cancer and Non-Cancer Patients in Need of Palliative Care: A Secondary Analysis of Two Cross-sectional Studies

Authors:

Aurélie Van Lancker (aurelie_van_lancker@hotmail.com)
Ann Van Hecke (ann.vanhecke@ugent.be)
Sofie Verhaeghe (sofie.verhaeghe@ugent.be)
Matthias Mattheeuws (matthias_mattheeuws@hotmail.com)
Dimitri Beeckman (dimitri.beeckman@ugent.be)

Version: 4 Date: 17 Jan 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Professor Pasini,

We would like to thank you to have potentially accepted our manuscript “A Comparison of Symptoms in Older Hospitalised Palliative Cancer and Non-Cancer Patients: A Secondary Analysis of Two Cross-sectional Studies.” The answers to the required revisions are provided in attachment and the changes were integrated in the manuscript.

We are pleased to resubmit this revised version to the editorial board of BMC Geriatrics to consider it for publication.

The manuscript contains original and unpublished work. The authors, Aurélie Van Lancker, Ann Van Hecke, Verhaeghe Sofie, Matthias Mattheeuws, Dimitri Beeckman would like to resubmit the manuscript “A Comparison of Symptoms in Older Hospitalised Palliative Cancer and Non-Cancer Patients: A Secondary Analysis of Two Cross-sectional Studies.” exclusively to the BMC Geriatrics. The work has not been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere.

Looking forward to an answer of the editorial team of the BMC Geriatrics, please accept our best regards.
Yours sincerely,

On behalf of all authors,

Aurélie Van Lancker

Response to the editor and reviewers

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

The authors declared the membership of Prof dr. Dimitri Beeckman in the competing interest section.

2. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of AVH, SV, MM and DB as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to data collection or supervision 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.

The authors changed the contribution of the authors in the manuscript. All authors made a substantial contribution to the manuscript:

Aurélie Van Lancker: conception and design of the study, acquisition of the data, analysis and interpretation of the data, drafting of the manuscript, and approving the final version.

Ann Van Hecke: conception and design of the study, interpretation of the data, critically revising the manuscript, and approving the final version.

Sofie Verhaeghe: conception and design of the study, interpretation of the data, critically revising the manuscript, and approving the final version.

Matthias Mattheeuws: conception and design of the study, acquisition of the data, analysis and interpretation of the data, critically revising the manuscript, and approving the final version.

Dimitri Beeckman: conception and design of the study, interpretation of the data, critically revising the manuscript, and approving the final version.