Author’s response to reviews

Title: Health literacy among older adults is associated with their 10-years' cognitive functioning and decline - the Doetinchem Cohort Study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear dr. Chen,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise and resubmit our manuscript entitled “Health literacy among older adults is associated with their 10-years’ cognitive functioning and decline - the Doetinchem Cohort Study” to BMC Geriatrics.

Below, we address the comments by literally repeating each comment, and then describing our responses, preceded by [RESPONSE], and followed by the text that has been modified in response to each of the comments (within quotation marks). We also provide a new version of our manuscript in which ‘tracked changes’ were used to indicate which changes were made.
We thank the reviewers for taking the time to review our manuscript. We hope that the revised version of our manuscript can contribute to the contents of BMC Geriatrics.

With kind regards,

Also on behalf of the other authors

Bas Geboers, PhD

Technical Comments

Please include a list of abbreviations.

[RESPONSE]

A list of abbreviations was added to our manuscript (lines 349-351). Our apologies for the omission in the previous version of our manuscript. The list is:

“DCS: Doetinchem Cohort Study; LDST: Letter Digit Substitution Test; SCWT: Stroop Color Word Test; VFT: Verbal Fluency Test; VLT: Verbal Learning Test”

Heng-Hsin Tung - Reviewer 2

The new finding should present in conclusion to show the contribution of this study.

[RESPONSE]

To address this comment, we added some text to the conclusion (lines 344-345):

“Further, even in relatively young older adults, cognitive decline is associated with low health literacy, also when taking educational level into account.”

We also added some text to the abstract to better reflect the conclusions of our study (line 49):
“Low health literacy and declining cognitive functioning might be a barrier for person-centered care, even in relatively young older adults.”