Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effects of preventive use of compression stockings for elderly with chronic venous insufficiency and swollen legs: A systematic review and meta-analysis

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Cover letter: Decision on Manuscript BGTC-D-18-00707 RI

Entitled: Effects of preventive use of compression stockings for elderly with chronic venous insufficiency and swollen legs: A systematic review and meta-analysis

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Dear Editor!

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to re-submit this manuscript with minor revisions. In the following, we will answer your questions.

Editor comments:

We noticed author Hilde Tinderholt Myrhaug’s email address listed on the title page does not match the email address in the submissions system. Please ensure all author email addresses match in both the submission system and on the title page of the manuscript.
A: We have checked the email addresses of all the authors and ensured that they match on the title page and in the submission system. The email address of Hilde Tinderholt Myrhaug is now revised in the submission system.

Please provide an “additional files” section after the references.

A: We have added this sentence after the references: Additional file: 1. Search strategies

Rewire reports:

How were data collected across the included five studies? This may be of importance since you include studies lasting up to five years.

A: We collected data about ulcer recurrence as it was reported in the articles.

The article by Nelson et al reported ulcer recurrence after five years, and we used fig 1 (Survival curve showing time to recurrence in Class 2 and Class 3 hosiery) to register ulcer recurrence after 12 months. The numbers were counted both manual and automatically.

Kapp et al reported ulcer recurrence after 6 months and the numbers were estimated by percent wound recurrence given in table 2.

Clarcke-Moloney measured ulcer recurrence after 12 month. We used the numbers given in the results (page 406).

Vandongen et al registered ulcer recurrence after six and 12 months, and we used the numbers given in table 1.

The study by Jungbeck et al did not measure ulcer recurrence. We used the numbers in fig. 2 to report subjective symptoms.
Three studies reported compliance. Nelson et al reported numbers after five years in the results (page 805, first paragraph). Kapp et al reported compliance after six months; we used the numbers given in the text (adherence, page 193). For Clarke-Moloney we used the numbers given in table 2 to calculate compliance after 12 months.

Yours sincerely,

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Researcher

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