Author’s response to reviews

Title: Randomised controlled trial protocol (GRIP study): Examining the effect of involvement of a general practitioner and home care oncology nurse after a cancer diagnosis on patient reported outcomes and healthcare utilization.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor-in-Chief, dear Editor,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled “Protocol of the Grip Study: a randomised controlled multicentre trial evaluating patient satisfaction and health care use for cancer patients receiving structured follow-up guidance from primary care after initial diagnosis”, which we would like to offer for publication in BMC Cancer.

This is a re-submission, including the requested corrections, of manuscript no. BCAN-D-16-01463.

The cover letter used for the initial submission can be found below.

Following your request, we have responded to the requested corrections below.

1. Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation

Copies of all ethical approval and funding approval have been sent as email attachments to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

For the ethical approval, a translated version of the relevant parts was included at the bottom of the original document.
For the funding approval, a translation was attached separately.

2. Funding

The GRIP study is financially supported by the Danone Ecosystem Fund.

We have added the requested information to the 'competing interests' section of our manuscript.

Our study protocol has not undergone peer-review by the funding body.

3. Study status

Our study is ‘ongoing’. We are still collecting data.

4. Related Articles

There have not been any publications containing the results of this study which have been published or submitted to any journal.

We hope you will consider our manuscript suitable for publication in BMC Medicine.

If there are any remaining questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of all co-authors,

Charles Helsper, MD, PhD, MSc

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Initial cover letter.

Dear Editor-in-Chief, dear Editor,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled “Protocol of the Grip Study: a randomised controlled multicentre trial evaluating patient satisfaction and health care use for cancer patients receiving structured follow-up guidance from primary care after initial diagnosis”, which we would like to offer for publication in BMC Cancer.

Due to the ageing population and improving diagnostics and treatments, the number of cancer patients and cancer survivors is increasing. To improve personalized and integrated care for this growing patient population, supportive care starting from diagnosis from the primary care setting is advocated. However, the effects of structured follow-up from primary care after cancer diagnosis have not been studied yet.
In our GRIP study, a multicentre two-arm randomised controlled trial in The Netherlands, we will study the effects of structured follow-up from primary care after cancer (breast, lung, colorectal or gynaecologic cancer or melanoma) diagnosis. All patients receive care as usual. Patients randomised to the intervention arm receive additional structured follow-up provided by 1) their general practitioner, by means of a consultation directly after diagnosis to empower the patient for shared decision making in the hospital (treatment decision), and 2) a home care oncology nurse during and after active treatment.

The primary outcomes of the GRIP study are patient satisfaction and healthcare utilization. Secondary outcomes include quality of life, mental health, patient empowerment, shared decision making, employment status and satisfaction with the given information.

We hope you will consider our manuscript suitable for publication in BMC Medicine.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of all co-authors,