Author’s response to reviews

Title: Physician requests by patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma in Japan

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dr. Maria Hodges and Dr. Linda Gummlich

Editor

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Dear Dr. Hodges and Dr. Gummlich,

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to reviewers’ critiques of our manuscript, "Physician requests by patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma in Japan" (BCAN-D-18-01289R1). Below are our responses to the critiques in their order of presentation, and we have revised the manuscript as indicated in response to the critiques.
Reviewer reports:

Guglielmucci Fanny, DClinPsy, PhD (Reviewer 2): The Authors answered to all reviewers' suggestions ameliorating their manuscript. Furthermore, they provided a professional proofreading. Interestingly their performed new statistical analysis splitting the sample in those who underwent to palliative cares and those who did not. I think giving more space to this results in the conclusion will significantly improving the ms. As a clinical psychologist who work with MPM in a clinical setting I think it could be useful for worldwide clinicians (i.e. social workers, palliative, psychologists) to read a more in-depth clinical explanations of this results: Authors did not gave a clinical explanation about the reason of such a difference between MPM patients with/without palliative cares and mostly they did not argue why the two groups did not show differences in all the other variables and about what does it means/implies.

Response: We appreciate positive critiques. According to the suggestion, we added a possible explanation of a difference between MPM patients with/without palliative cares in Discussion section (p18, line 16 – p19, line 3) and described the results in the Conclusion section (p20, lines 7-9) including an additional reference as ref 30. Even though there would be potential difference of the frequency in other requests, we are afraid that the statistical power was not enough to demonstrate significance due to a small number of samples.

In addition, we corrected a number of mistakes in supplement Table 1. These correction dose not affect the results, discussion, and conclusion.

Again, we appreciate the constructive critiques of the reviewers, which have led to improvements in the manuscript, and we hope that these revisions satisfy the reviewers’ concerns. Thank you for your consideration in the review process.

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