Author’s response to reviews

Title: Quality of survival among symptomatic compared to PSA-detected prostate cancer survivors - Results from a UK wide patient-reported outcomes study

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Version: 2 Date: 13 Sep 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Thank you for the further feedback on the submitted article. We have addressed each comment below and modified the manuscript accordingly.
Editor Comments:

1. In the "Availability of Data and Materials" section, please detail where the raw data supporting your findings can be found (including information found in any supplementary files). If the raw data is publicly available or can be requested, please state that this is the case, and where the data can be found/requested from. Alternatively, if you do not wish to/cannot share your data, please state (in the ‘Availability of data and Materials’ section) that data will not be shared, and state the reason.

Please note that participant or patient data should be de-identified.

Please see our submission guidelines for the statements we can accept in this section. https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#availability+of+data+and+materials

Response: We have added the following to this section: “The process for accessing the data used are available from the corresponding author”. While this is not exactly the same as the journals recommended statements it is the closest we can get as data can only be accessed in secure facilities in Leeds or Belfast, or by direct application to the four UK cancer registries. Any researcher wishing to access the study data would thus find it more beneficial to contact the corresponding author for guidance through the process.

2. We note that you have included a ‘Consent for publication’ section in the Declarations. Consent for publication refers to consent for the publication of identifying images or other personal or clinical details of participants that compromise anonymity. Seeing as this is not applicable to your manuscript please state “Not Applicable” in this section.

Response: We have applied this change to the manuscript.

3. We notice that some authors are missing from the authors' contributions section. The individual contributions of all authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section. Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found here: http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship

Response: We have clarified the role of the remaining authors.
4. Please move the additional file list after the references.

Response: As requested we have moved this list.

5. Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript, please move them.

Response: We have moved this list to after the references and added a “Figure Legends” heading.

6. As co-author Amy Downing is a member of the editorial board (Associate Editor) of this journal, in order to ensure transparency, please declare this in the Competing Interests section of the Declarations.

Response: We have added the statement “AD declares membership of the BMC Cancer editorial board (Associate Editor)”

7. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

Response: We have formatted and uploaded the manuscript according to these guidelines.
Reviewer 2:

Dear authors, thank you very much for addressing all comments carefully. It was a real pleasure to read the revised manuscript.

Response: Thank you for the positive feedback and for taking the time to review the submitted paper.

Just one minor suggestion remains. Even though with your amendments you address my previous comment about figure 1 already to a large extend, I would suggest changing the wording from "Depression" to "Feeling depressed", which is the original wording of the questionnaire. The reason is that the EPIC-12 instruments is no validated instrument to screen for "Depression" as for example the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) does.

Response: We accept this suggestion and have modified the figure accordingly.