Author's response to reviews

Title: Perceived stress and musculoskeletal pain are prevalent and strongly associated in adolescents. An epidemiological cross-sectional study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please consider the submitted manuscript for publication in BMC Public Health. We declare that the work is original, it has not been published, nor under review by any other journal.

**Berit Østerås, Hermundur Sigmundsson, Monika Haga:**

The relationship between stress and pain in adolescents.
An epidemiological cross-sectional study.

The expansion of illness among young people is documented, but the mechanisms behind are unclear. Young people are increasingly disabled because of long-term musculoskeletal pain and psychological distress, but there is lacking knowledge about these phenomena. A better understanding of these health risks, and their interactions are required in order to improve treatment approaches and succeed in health promotion among young people. This present study provide new insight regarding perceived stress and musculoskeletal pain in adolescents. The findings shed light on prevalence, stress-pain associations and the predictive effects of stress in young people with respect to pain and variation in pain. In addition, the results challenge traditional views regarding stress-related musculoskeletal pain. The findings may have clinical implications and provide a basis for further research.

The Regional Committee for Medical Research Ethics approved the data collection process, and the study is in line with the Declaration of Helsinki. The authors declare that they have no competing interests

Yours sincerely,
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