Author’s response to reviews

Title: Diagnosis and management of lumbar spinal stenosis in primary care in France: a survey of general practitioners

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Version: 4  Date: 22 Aug 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Jashan P Abraham
BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders

Paris, August 22nd, 2019

Dear Jashan P Abraham,

Please find enclosed a revised version of our manuscript BMSD-D-19-00201.R3 entitled “Diagnosis and management of lumbar spinal stenosis in primary care in France: a survey of general practitioners” by Marie-Ombeline Chagnas and colleagues, that we would like to submit to BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders for publication as a research article.

We are grateful for the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We have addressed all the comments and have included the Editor suggestions in the revised version of our manuscript. Enclosed you will find clean versions of the manuscript, tables, figures and additional files and a point by point reply to the Editor comments.

All the authors have read and approved the revised version of the manuscript, except Professor Serge Poiraudeau who passed away on March 25, 2017. All authors have given necessary attention to ensure the integrity of the work. We hope that our work will be suitable for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

Best regards,

Associate Professor Christelle NGUYEN
Editor Comments

1. Author Contributions

Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship (https://clicktime.symantec.com/3FUMyGGFim5CA53bsuhxsV86H2?v=Us=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.biomedcentral.com%2Fsubmissions%2Feditorial-policies%23authorship).

Currently, the contributions of some of the listed authors does not automatically qualify them for authorship. In the section “Authors’ contributions”, please provide further clarifications on their contributions, and see our guidelines for authorship below.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. Authors are expected to fulfil the criteria below (adapted from McNutt et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Feb 2018, 201715374; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1715374115; licensed under CC BY 4.0):

Each author is expected to have made substantial contributions to the conception OR design of the work; OR the acquisition, analysis, OR interpretation of data; OR the creation of new software used in the work; OR have drafted the work or substantively revised it

AND to have approved the submitted version (and any substantially modified version that involves the author's contribution to the study);

AND to have agreed both to be personally accountable for the author's own contributions and to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work, even ones in which the author was not personally involved, are appropriately investigated, resolved, and the resolution documented in the literature.

Acquisition of funding, collection of data or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not usually justify authorship.

If these guidelines are not met, we would request the following change of authorship form be filled out and sent to our editorial office https://clicktime.symantec.com/3VhM4GWGwd3wvKjprpFadi6H2?v=Us=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.biomedcentral.com%2Fsubmissions%2Feditorial-policies%23authorship. Anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship can be acknowledged in the ‘Acknowledgements’ section.

All authors fulfilled the criteria mentioned above. We now clarified this in the corresponding section (lines 369-377). As we stated in our cover letter, the submitted version of the paper could not be approved by Professor Serge Poiraudreau and he cannot agree to be accountable for the presented work because he passed away on March 25, 2017. However, we believe his contribution was substantial enough to qualify him as an author.
2. Role of Funders
Please note, the role(s) of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript should be declared in the Funding section.
We now declared the role of the funding body (lines 179-180 and 365-367).

3. Table 3
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