Author's response to reviews

Title: The Impact of Health Literacy in the Care of Surgical Patients: A Qualitative Systematic Review

Authors:

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Version: 4 Date: 1 May 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Billmann,

Thank you and the referees for your evaluation of our above entitled manuscript. We were very happy to have our work considered for publication in BMC Surgery. We addressed the referees’ comments in an itemized fashion as requested. In addition, we highlighted in red the changes we performed in the manuscript to facilitate tracking of them by you.

Sincerely,

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**Referee 1**

“I would expand more the results in the abstract”

We have added information in the abstract to provide more details on the results for the search as requested by the referee, specifically “The majority of studies used the Short Test of Functional Literacy in adults (STOFHLA) to evaluate patients’ health literacy. Five studies evaluated the patients preoperatively, four studies evaluated patients in the postoperative period and in one study the time of evaluation in relation to the surgical procedure was not defined.”

**Referee 2**

“We urge the authors to adapt and to uniform the references to the style given in the Instructions to authors”

We had the changed the references style in order to adhere to the Instructions to authors.

“The authors should correct spelling mistakes (e.g., heath and health)”

Corrected. Thank you

“The authors should review the punctuation in the whole text”

Done
Referee 3

“*It would be helpful to divide their structure in preoperative and postoperative intervals*”

We divided the result section in preoperative and postoperative times as requested by the referee

“I missed the topic “informed consent and health literate state” as a principal part in their manuscript

We describe in the result section the study of Zite el al, a randomized trial that evaluated the effect of low literacy consent on patient’s comprehension of the consent process in patients undergoing laparoscopic tubal ligation. [36] Women who were randomized to a low literacy consent form understood the consent process better than the women who were randomized to the standard consent form.