Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparison of Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) among Patients with Pre-diabetes, Diabetes and Normal Glucose Tolerance, Using the 15D-HRQOL Questionnaire in Greece. The DEPLAN Study

Authors:

Konstantinos Makrilakis (kmakrila@yahoo.com;kmakrila@med.uoa.gr)

Stavros Liatis (s.liatis@yahoo.com)

Aphrodit Tiakou (afro.tsiakou@gmail.com)

Chryssoula Stathi (gpstathi@otenet.gr)

Eleftheria Papachristoforou (lfmedpap@gmail.com)

Despoina Perrea (dperrea@med.uoa.gr)

Nicholas Katsilambros (laennec@techlink.gr)

Nikolaos Kontodimopoulos (nkontodi@otenet.gr)

Dimitrios Niakas (dniakas@med.uoa.gr)

Version: 2 Date: 30 Apr 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

 Replies to Reviewers

We would like to thank the Section Editor and the Reviewer for the time they spent on our paper, as well as for the encouraging comments regarding our work.

Our replies to their comments are as follows:

Technical Comments:

Comment 1.

Title page: email addresses of all authors should be provided

Reply 1.
The email addresses of all authors have been provided in the title page.

Comment 2.

Page 7, lines 122-128: this text has been taken directly from Väätäinen, S., Keinänen-Kiukaanniemi, S., Saramies, J. et al. Qual Life Res (2014) 23: 1935.https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-014-0638-3 without any attribution. This paper should be cited here.

Reply 2.

The specific paper was cited on page 7, line 141 of the revised manuscript, as reference No 22.

Comment 3.

Page 10, lines 206-212: this text has been duplicated from Diabetes Spectrum 2004 Jan; 17(1): 41-49. https://doi.org/10.2337/diaspect.17.1.41 without any attribution.

This is not acceptable and this whole section will need to be re-written to avoid any duplication.

Reply 3.

The section was rewritten (pages 10-11, lines 221-228 of the revised manuscript) and the mentioned reference was also added: “There is a lot of interest in the past few decades in studies of health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and the impact of various diseases and disease-states upon it, which has led to the development and refinement of a number of generic and disease-specific HRQOL measures [24] [25]. It should be emphasized also that clinical variables alone do not comprehensively capture patients’ perceptions of their health, which is in part due to the fact that HRQOL is influenced by many other factors, such as the existence of other health problems, social relationships, marital status, patient knowledge, treatment satisfaction and perceived ability to control one’s disease [26].”

Comment 4.

Ethical approval and consent to participate: please provide the name of the ethics committee that approved the study.

Reply 4.

The name of the ethics committee that approved the study was added in page 7 (lines 144-145) and in page 17 (lines 365-366): “The study was approved by the cooperating hospital’s ethics
committee (Laiko General Hospital Ethics Review Board), and the Hellenic National Drug Organization”

Comment 5.

Author contributions: please advise whether NK and DN provided any further contribution to the study beyond providing advice on the manuscript as this is not sufficient to warrant authorship. Please see out Editorial Policies on authorship at https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#authorship. If no further contribution was provided these two authors should be removed from the authorship and acknowledged instead.

Reply 5.

The contributions of NK and DN were annotated on page 18, lines 388-389, to say: “NK and DN designed the study and provided critical revisions of important intellectual content to the manuscript”.

Replies to the Section Editor’s comments

We would like to thank the Section Editor for the time spent on our paper. Our replies to his comments are:

Comment 1.

They should avoid using the word diabetic and use third person such as pts with diabetes, or with pre diabetes rather than pre diabetic

Reply 1.

The word “diabetic” was changed throughout the manuscript and was substituted by “patients with diabetes” or “participants with diabetes or pre-diabetes”. Specifically this was done in the Abstract [page 2 (lines 53, 57, 61)], page 4 (line 69), page 6 (line 131), page 9 (line 194), page 14 (line 312), page 15 (line 323), page 16 (line 344), and in the titles of Table 3 and Table 4.

Comment 2.

They need state that they had a licence to use the QOL questionnaire

Reply 2.

A statement for the QOL questionnaire license was added in the text (page 7, lines 132-134: “License to use this HRQOL questionnaire had been centrally obtained from the Steering
Committee of the original European DE-PLAN study and was used by all participating centers [15].

Comment 3.

The figures need to have error bars.

Reply 3.

Error bars were added to the figures.

Replies to Reviewer’s (Robin Emi Sugihara Miyamoto, Psy.D.) comments:

We would like to thank the reviewer for the time he spent on our paper again, as well as for finding our paper acceptable for publication.