Author’s response to reviews

Title: Eating disorders - knowledge, attitudes, management and clinical experience of Norwegian dentists

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Please find our response below each comments given.

Referee 2:

http://www.biomedcentral.com/imedia/1736952305174765_comment.pdf

Thanks for the positive remarks as to our revised paper.

Comments to the revised version from Associate Editor

It would have been easier to read the revision if corrections had been marked, for instance in yellow.

- Now, all changes is marked in yellow.

1. Abstract
   Line 35-6: “Female dentists perceived their knowledge about ED superior to that of males”. Did the female dentists compare themselves to male dentists? Please clarify.
   - No, females just reported better knowledge about ED than the males did. We have changed the first setting of the sentence to: Female dentists reported superior knowledge about ED compared to males.
   Hope this makes it clearer.

2. Methods
   a. P5, line 91: “include” and “including” in the same sentence – please vary.
      - “Included” is changed to “composed”.
   b. P5, line 103: state which committee. Not given, despite stated so in answer to AE.
      - The name of the committee was already mentioned in line 104 (Rek Vest) but has been further clarified in line 103.

3. Results
In this section, the reader needs to be much better guided. Throughout, not mere p-values shall be given (the first instances are in p7, §2). Please compare to p9, line 166: this is a good example how to write. Also, when given figures do not appear in the tables, please state this for instance in parentheses (not in tables). I spent quite a lot of time trying to orientate myself between the text and the tables. This applies for many places in the text. When comparisons are made, please write which part is compared with.

Figures not shown in tables have been indicated in appropriate places with: (not in tables)

a. P7, line 123: insert proportions having worked ≥5 years in PHDS and private sector, respectively.
   - Done.

b. P7, line 124: insert proportions of females in private practice and PDHS, respectively.
   - Done.

c. And so on.
   - Proportions have been calculated and inserted together with the p-value in sections where indicated. When re-calculating statistics, an error was found and females (and not males) were found to significantly overrepresented in acquiring knowledge from other sources as well.

d. Table 1 is a real challenge. This table had a much better outline in the original version. As it stands it is really confusing, especially as males and females are compared all the time in the text. This should be amended.
   - Agree, and we have therefor re-inserted the original of Table 1 in this revision with some minor modifications. The comparisons between males and females remain and referring to your comment below (“When first evaluating this ms, I did not react about the reasoning about differences males/females. I am sorry for that”).

e. Also please consider that “senior consultants” are given PHDS + private sector in the table, but the comment in the text is not (line 122). Altogether very difficult to interpret.
- Corrected.

f. P8, §1, line 137: I suggest inserting a second sentence: The most frequently given source was “media”. Also, do you have any indication what “other sources” contain?

- The sentence: “The most frequently given source was “media” is inserted. We have no data on what “other sources” may imply but “media” for us was television, radio and newspaper/magazines and other sources could be the social media like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.

g. P10, §2, lines 193-5: were there only 8 male dentists and 7 female dentists who had treated ED patients? Eight dentists with working experience ≥5 years had treated ED patients? Five with ≤5 years? If so, how could this give statistically significant differences between the groups?

- The numbers (8, 7 and 8, 5) do not refer to the number of dentist but to number of patients treated. This is now clarified in the sentence.

h. Table 3: Was more than one source possible to choose? If so, please state that.

- Yes, and this is added to the table heading.

i. Table 6: As “stars” (*, **, ***) mostly are used to indicate statistical differences on different levels, please use other signs.

- “stars” have been changed to other symbols (α and β) in Table 6.

4. Discussion
a. Line 218; please use past tense.

- Corrected.

b. When first evaluating this ms, I did not react about the reasoning about differences males/females. I am sorry for that. Throughout the results, gender differences are pointed out and tested. Here in the discussion the only possible reason discussed is that females are over-represented among ED
disorder sufferers, which might lead to communication difficulties. Are there any other possible reasons? Socio-cultural norms and expectations? It would “lift” the discussion if a deepening of the reasoning could be done.

- We have tried to lift the discussion and have added the following including an new ref.

“It is well known that eating disorders are significantly overrepresented among women. What is not as well known is that cognitions and attitudes associated with eating disorders, but without the presence of a diagnosable eating disorder, are very common in women [21]. During adolescence and early adulthood, many women undergo a period characterized by such thoughts and feelings. Women consequently know more about, but also to a greater extent identify themselves with, eating disorder problems. This could very well explain why female dentists find it more difficult to inform patients about a possible eating disorder [21].”


c. P14, line 269: does “family physician” equal to “home physician” (see Table 5). Do you mean “general practitioner”?

- Family/home physician has been changed to “general medical practitioner”.

5. References

a. Do ##17, 18 and 22 have any English abstracts? Or can you possibly find any other references that can be understood by an international readership?

- Unfortunately, these references are only available in Swedish/Norwegian