Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Relationship between Pain Management and Psychospiritual Distress in Patients with Advanced Cancer Following Admission to a Palliative Care Unit

Version: 0 Date: 18 Sep 2015

Reviewer: Tak Fung

Reviewer's report:

(1) Paper is well written and the statistical analysis is appropriate.

(2) In abstract, there is a sentence saying: 'Consistent with this, a statistically significant interaction between pain and depression scores indicated that pain improvement was dependent on depression amelioration'. This sentence is NOT correct, it should be written as:

'Consistent with this, for depression scores, there is a statistical significant pain group by time interaction effect detected, which means that the pain group effect on depression scores was dependent on time'.

(3) Line no. 7 -p9 and line no. 14-p10 mentioned about 'mixed designed ANOVA', I think they are referring to 'one between subject factor-pain group' and 'one within subject factor-time'. It is very unclear.

(4) In this article, it doesn't mention about missing values of the outcome variables. Did every patient complete the whole survey on each time point without missing any questions?

(5) Please see my modification on table 1.

(6) Please see my modification on table 2.

(7) Please see my modification on table 3.

(8) Please see my modification on table 4.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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