Author's response to reviews

Title: Outcomes for patients with advanced medical illness: a multicentre study of validity and predictors of response to change

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Editorial team
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Dear Editor,

please find enclosed our original article ‘Outcomes for patients with advanced medical illness: a multicentre study of validity and predictors of response to change’, that we are submitting for publication in ‘BMC Palliative Care’.

Capturing the patient centred outcomes remains pivotal for demonstrating the value and quality of medical care. The numbers of people with chronic, progressive and advanced illness are increasing, but outcome measures in this context are lacking. In this multi-phase, multicentric study, we aimed to test the validity, reliability and responsiveness of the Palliative care Outcome Measure (POS), and to determine if it could detect changes in the transition to palliative care.
This study detected substantial clinical improvement, even with one week of palliative care, in many dimensions important in quality of life at a point of the trajectory of disease when modern medicine often considers there is nothing more that can be done. We decided to include the results of clinical interest in 4 tables and 2 figures, and the results related to the process of validation of the POS in 7 additional files.

The article has not been published elsewhere and it is not being considered elsewhere for publication. All authors agreed to the content of the article and to its submission to 'BMC Palliative Care', and declared, as reported in a specific section of the text, they have no competing interests.

With best regards

Yours sincerely

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