Author’s response to reviews

Title: Timing of palliative care referral and aggressive cancer care toward the end-of-life in pancreatic cancer. A retrospective, single-centre observational study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Reviewers,

Re: Manuscript no PCAR-D-18-00089R1

Thank you kindly for your welcomed comments on our manuscript. The following essential revisions have occurred

1. The footnote at the bottom of page 5 has been removed. The sentence “(C25.0-C25.9 describes the diagnosis ‘malignant neoplasm of pancreas’ in more detail)” has been incorporated into the line 133, page 5.

2. Administrative permission obtained for this study is clarified by adding the sentence “The hospital’s administration provided consent to review patient records and utilize data for the purpose of this study” (page 5, line 118-119)
3. The role of the funding body in the study has been clarified further by the following sentence: “The funding body was not involved in the design of the study, collection, analysis or interpretation of the data, or in writing of the manuscript.” (page 11, line 311-313).

4. Figure titles/legends are provided under a separate heading, Figure Legends (page 15 line 151-154)

5. The source of the images in Figure 2 has been acknowledged by the sentence under Figure Legends: “Images depicted in Figure 2 were adapted from icons by Freepik, Smartline and Smashicons from www.flaticon.com, which is a freely available website requiring no copyright permission.” (page 15 line 454-455)