Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Association Between Hope, Marital Status, Depression and Persistent Pain in Men and Women Following Cardiac Surgery

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Aimee Cummings, Editor, BMC Women’s Health

Please find attached our revised manuscript entitled "The Association Between Hope, Marital Status, Depression and Persistent Pain in Men and Women Following Cardiac Surgery" (BMWH-D-17-00157R1). We thank the reviewer and the Editor for their comments and advice, and are grateful for the opportunity to make the suggested amendments to improve the quality of our manuscript. We hope the article now meets the standards required for publication in BMC Women’s Health. Our point-by-point response to each of the comments from the Editor is below each comment.

Response to Editor Comments

1. We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11136-017-1589-2


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This overlap mainly exists in your methods, results and imitations sections
While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. Please re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap.

Response: We thank the Editor for making us aware of the overlapping with two of our previous publications. We have carefully revised and re-phrased methods, results and limitation sections to make sure that the text do not overlap with previous publications.

Abstract: "Methods" is re-phrased.

Methods: First paragraph under “Methods” on page 7 and 8 is re-phrased. The next paragraph under “Data Collection” is also revised (page 8). The corresponding text under the following sub-headings in the Method section on page 8 and 9 are revised and re-phrased: “Marital Status”, “Depression” and “Persistent Pain”.

We have also revised and re-phrased the first paragraphs under “Results” on page 11 and 12, and, the limitation section on page 17 and 18 is also revised and re-phrased.

2. Please include the date of registration of your trial in the ethics section of your declarations.

Response: Our trial was registered November 28. 2011, and the information is included in the ethics section of our declarations.

3. Please clarify whether the questionnaire used in your study was developed for this study or has previously been published elsewhere. If the questionnaire has been published elsewhere please provide a reference to it in your manuscript, if the questionnaire was developed for this study please upload an English language version as a supplementary file.

Response: All the questionnaires are previous published and validated, and the references is provided in the text. For the Brief Pain Inventory Short Form, the information is included in the Method section, under the sub heading “Persistent Pain” on page 9. Information about the Self-Administered Comorbidity Questionnaire (SCQ-16) is provided under the sub-heading “Depression” on page 9. Information about the Herth Hope Index (HHI) is provided under the sub-heading “Hope”, last paragraph on page 3 and first paragraph on page 8.

4. In the Funding section, please also describe the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Response: We have provided the requested information in the section for our declarations under the heading “Funding”.
5. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of IL, RF, ML and TR as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to the listed tasks alone, does not usually justify authorship.

Response: We appreciate the comment from the Editor, and have clarified IL, RF, ML and TR’s contributions to the article. We have provided this information on page 20 in the section for our declarations under the heading “Authors contribution”.

6. Please provide figure legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript, please move them.

Response: We have provided the heading” Figure Legends” after the references on page 30.

7. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: We have uploaded the manuscript as a single, clean version without track changes or comments.