Author’s response to reviews

Title: Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Related to Breast Cancer Screening Among Female Health Care Professionals: A Cross-sectional survey

Authors:

Humariya Heena (hmunshi@kfmc.med.sa)
Sajid Durrani (sdurrani@kfmc.med.sa)
Muhammad Riaz (medical.stn@gmail.com)
Isamme AlFayyad (ialfayyad@kfmc.med.sa)
Rabeena Tabasim (rtabasim@kfmc.med.sa)
Gazi Parvez (gchiken@kfmc.med.sa)
Amani Abu-Shaheen (aabushaheen@kfmc.med.sa)

Version: 1 Date: 11 Apr 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Editor in Chief
BMC Women's Health
BMWH-D-18-00737
Title: Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Related to Breast Cancer Screening Among Female Health Care Professionals

Dear Editor-in-Chief

With a great pleasure we received your letter informing us about your favorable decision regarding our manuscript. The reviewers' comments were seriously considered trying to respond at length to each. Careful review of the manuscript had led to several changes and corrections obtaining a clearer and articulated paper.

Detailed explanations have been added throughout the manuscript in order to answer the reviewers' comments.

Answers to Reviewers:
The changes have been highlighted in yellow in the text of the manuscript.

Reviewer reports:

Santiago Palacios (Reviewer 1): It is a cross-sectional study on the knowledge and attitude of women professionals working in the area of health, correctly developed and carried out. I think it can be
Thank you for your positive evaluation and we are highly grateful for your review.

Isaac Benjamin Paz, Md (Reviewer 2): Thank you for the opportunity to review the article: I have a few comments that can make your study more relevant to all readers:
Background: it would be best that you provide more information about breast cancer incidence in Saudi Arabia like incidence, mortality, stage and method of diagnosis, number of breast imaging centers available, existence of image guided biopsy, etc.

Thank you for your esteemed comments, Breast cancer incidence in Saudi Arabia has already been added. For the detailed information and the latest data on method of diagnosis, number of breast imaging centers available, existence of image guided biopsy, in Saudi Arabia, we have added the available data in the literature wherever necessary.

You indicated that you used a validated questionnaire, I didn't see or missed the reference to it. Looking at the questions to assess knowledge about breast cancer I am not sure I agree with all the statements regarding breast cancer risk and detection.

This is a good point and we thank the reviewer to bring this up.
The statement that the questionnaire was developed from previous published literature on this topic and it was validated by face validity with the help of experts in the field of study has been added. In addition, Cronbach’s alpha was calculated to be >0.7 hence establishing the reliability.
We deleted the scoring in table 3 as we did not calculate the score for attitude.

There is no mention on the article regarding the national guidelines for breast cancer detection and screening. Clearly based on your questionnaire it seems that the expectation is that imaging screening should occur every three years. I am not sure there is data to support that there is a reduction in breast cancer related mortality with screening every three years.

Upon your comment, this has been added. We apologize for the typographical error in the table which has been corrected in the table and the text. This is based on international guidelines adopted by the ministry of health in KSA based on which the questionnaire was developed and as per previous published literature.

Your study would be stronger if you had as a control a non healthcare worker sample to determine if your healthcare workers attitude towards breast cancer are any different.

This is a good point and we agree with the reviewer. This has been included in our recommendation as more extensive studies on breast cancer screening in KSA are needed to be conducted to draw comparison between the differences in health care and non health care worker’s knowledge and attitude towards screening and practices.

It is not clear from your study if the lack of screening is the result of bias or lack of education of the healthcare workers or the absence of a national policy towards breast cancer screening and detection

This has been changed as per your comments.
Although, the screening tools and resources are available and free of charge in KSA however there is lack of active educational programs and campaigns directed at healthcare workers. Hence, inadequate knowledge about methods of breast cancer screening and their benefits among them could be the
reason for lower than expected results of the study. In addition, a nationalized education and screening program in the region, combined with considerations for social and cultural factors needs to be functional.

Also, the manuscript has been reviewed and modified to enhance the clarity of the manuscript.

In addition, the title now includes the study design. List of the full names, institutional addresses and email addresses for all authors and corresponding author are added.

The Declarations section in manuscript has been completed. A response to each of the mandatory subheadings is provided.