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: 2 Date: 28 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

Thank you for your favorable decision regarding our manuscript.

A detailed and point-by-point response has been made to the revised manuscript with response to each point raised, describing the amendments made to the manuscript text and where these can be found with mention of section, line and page. Detailed references have been provided to help explain the points raised by your good self.

Answers to Reviewers:
Also the changes have been highlighted in yellow in the text as before.

Editor Comments:

There is an interesting study but there are a few more questions to be resolved: Abstract – in the results you say 74 (18.7%) had undergone mammography. Is that ever had a mammogram or within the year or 2 years?

Thank you for your comment. The result is for “ever had a mammogram”. This has been added in
Abstract section, page 2 line 28.

Page 4 rather than “accounting to” you should write “accounting for”

This has been changed as per your correction. Background section, Page 4 line 34.

Is “13.08% deaths to breast cancer” the percentage of all cancer death? In women?

The sentence has been modified to “13.08% among all deaths were attributed to breast cancer 98% of which occurred in women and 12% in men (3,4)”. Background section, Line 40-41, page 4.

Line 52 “have created a doubt on merits of regular screening” is not exactly right – more that the timeframes for screening have been questioned – such as the need for yearly or every two year screenings. I would not say that mammogram in totality has been questioned.

This has been modified as per your suggestion on Background section, Page 4 line 53.

Page 5 utilization is “very low”. How low is screening rate in the general public?
In order to elaborate more to assess the level of utilization of screening services and provide better clarity lines 62-64 on page 5 have been added in the background section.

Page 11 – of the women over 41 can you say how many have ever had a mammogram?

As per your comment on Page 11 lines 210-211 have been added to explain in the results section.

The authors never exactly explain how the KAP of the providers are supposed to influence patient. For example, do they think that if providers are going for mammogram that they are then more likely to encourage patients to do so? Would it be possible to cite any resource that makes that connection?

See this on page 12 “The knowledge level of healthcare professionals and their attitudes towards screening methods for breast cancer are important determinants of the practice of these methods by the general population” what is the evidence for this?

The line “The knowledge level of healthcare professionals and their attitudes towards screening methods for breast cancer are important determinants of the practice of these methods by the general population” has been modified to “The knowledge level of healthcare professionals and their attitudes towards screening methods for breast cancer are important determinants of the practice of these methods by the patients ” in discussion section Page 12, line 219-220, as is also concluded by the following studies:

“Even when female health workers are not directly involved in referring patients for breast cancer screening, they play an important role in creating an environment supportive of screening behaviors by offering positive role models”. BMC Cancer. 2009; 9: 203.Published online 2009 Jun 25. doi: 10.1186/1471-2407-9-203

“It has also been observed that for health workers to be effective as educators they must possess the appropriate knowledge, attitude and beliefs concerning the health behavior being promoted”. Cancer Epidem Biomar. 1994; 3:77–85.
Also – how about looking at knowledge by discipline? How many physicians surveyed were unaware or answered questions incorrectly?

As per your suggestion on Page 10 lines 173-177 in the results section have been added to explain the knowledge by profession and discipline although both the comparisons are not statistically significant in our study.

Page 12 – is CBE considered a regular part of a physical exam in KSA?

Lines 262-265 on Page 13 in discussion section have been added to explain this in detail to incorporate the latest guidelines by the ministry of health in Saudi Arabia for breast cancer screening.

Also please review the English again. Often sentences are missing the the indefinite article (a, an) before the noun.

The whole manuscript has been modified to add articles wherever necessary to enhance the clarity of the manuscript.