Author’s response to reviews

Title: The use of echocardiographic and clinical data recorded on admission to simplify decision making for elective percutaneous coronary intervention: A prospective cohort study

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Dear Editor:

Thank you for your valuable comments to improve the manuscript. We have addressed all comments in the enclosed list in the revised manuscript.

1- In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section of your declarations please confirm if an ethics committee approved the procedure for verbal consent, and why they felt the need for written consent was not necessary for this study. Please also detail how you documented the consent.

In our study, we chose to collect verbal approvals for several reasons: First, the study population was patients with coronary artery disease, and therefore we expected that many of the potential participants would be elderly. Second, the main objective of the study was to measure health-related quality of life for patients six months after their elective percutaneous intervention procedure, so it was necessary to contact them within a specific period of time. Considering this, contacting patients via telephone was a more appropriate way to meet the study’s main goal than inviting patients to come physically to the hospital, which may have been inconvenient for them. Third, cultural and social factors make Jordanian people wary of signing any document, as they
think it could result in legal or financial misuse. This concern makes obtaining written consent difficult. Importantly, the IRB committee at Jordan University of Science and Technology also recommended collecting verbal approvals since we are only exploring issues related to patient health-related quality of life, and thus the risk in our study was minimal.

Upon each participant’s approval and prior to the start of the data collection process, we audio-recorded all of the verbal consents and the conversations between the interviewer and the participants during our phone calls. We maintained confidentiality and privacy by using codes instead of names and/or medical record numbers to save the recorded files, and these files were password-protected. In this regard, it is also worth mentioning that we provided a clear explanation of the study’s aims and design to the participants to ensure that their consents were informed. Furthermore, we informed all respondents that participation in the study was voluntary and that their refusal to participate in our study would not affect their future medical care at the institution in any way.

2- Please include the email addresses for all authors on the title page. The corresponding author should still be indicated.

The email addresses for all authors have been added to the title page, and the corresponding author is indicated.

3- 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.

The funder had no role in designing the study; in collecting, analysing, and interpreting data; or in preparing and writing the manuscript.

4- 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 or the figure files, please move them.
We provided figure legends under a separate heading after the References and removed them from the figure files.

We have uploaded a clean version of the manuscript and all relevant tables and figures. We made sure that all tables and figures are cited within the text.