Author’s response to reviews

Title: HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS’ PAIN EXPERIENCES BEFORE AND AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF A NURSE-BASED PAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: A SEPARATE SAMPLE PRE AND POST STUDY

Authors:

Gugsa Nemera Germossa (gugsanemera@gmail.com)
Ragnhild Hellesø (ragnhild.helleso@medisin.uio.no)
Ingeborg Strømseng Sjetne (Ingeborg.Strømseng.Sjetne@kunnskapssenteret.no)

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Author’s response to reviews:

19 July 17, 2019
Hossein Rafiee
Associate Editor
BMC Nursing

Dear Dr. Rafiee:
Subject: Submission of revised paper NURS-D-19-00040R1

Thank you very much for your e-mail dated July 11, 2019 enclosing the reviewer’s comments. Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript “Hospitalized Patients’ Pain Experiences Before and After the Introduction of a Nurse-Based Pain Management Program: A Separate Sample Pre And Post Study”. We also greatly appreciate the reviewers for their scholarly comments and suggestions. We have carefully reviewed the comments and have revised the manuscript accordingly. Our point-by-point response to reviewers’ comments are given below. We hope that our responses are satisfactory, and that the revised version of the manuscript is now suitable for publication.

We thank you for your consideration of our manuscript and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Gugsa Nemera Germossa
Jimma University and University of Oslo
gugsanemera@gmail.com
Response to Reviewer 1: Lucyna Tomaszek
Thank you for your thorough review of our manuscript. We have amended each of your concerns point-by-point with its corresponding section in the manuscript text as below.

Reviewer’s comments on the Abstract:
1) “Remove statement in Background section”. “However, there is a lack of research investigating patients' pain intensity and interference across various hospital inpatient units before and after the introduction of a nurse-based pain management programme”.

Response: As suggested by reviewer, we have deleted the statement “However, there is a lack of research investigating patients' pain intensity and interference across various hospital inpatient units before and after the introduction of a nurse-based pain management programme” from the abstract background section on page 1 between line 17 and line 18.

Reviewer:
2) Remove statement in Methods section “Data were analyzed using an ANOVA, and the results were considered significant at p < 0.05”.
Response: We have removed the statement “Data were analyzed using an ANOVA, and the results were considered significant at p < 0.05” from the method section in the abstract on page 2 between line 27 and 28.

Reviewer:
3) Results section - based on table 4 you should write, the proportion of patients who reported average moderate and severe pain in the last 24 hours was 68.8 % in Survey 1, 72.8 % in Survey 2, then dropped to 48.5 % in Survey 3. I do not understand why is 93 % in Survey 1, 94.5 % in Survey 2, and 87.3 % in Survey 3. Remove, pain intensity” in statement, the mean …. pain interference with physical and emotional …” because the pain has previously been described (sentence above).
Response: We are somewhat in doubt whether we have understood this comment the way it was intended by the reviewer, however, we have inserted the statement “The proportion of patients who reported average moderate and severe pain intensity in the last 24 hours were 68.8 % in Survey 1, 72.8 % in Survey 2 and then dropped to 48.5 % in Survey 3 whereas those who reported moderate and severe pain intensity at the time of interview were 53.9 % in Survey 1, 57.1 % in Survey 2 and then dropped to 37.1 % in Survey 3” in abstract result section between line 28 and 32. And the statement “93 % in Survey 1, 94.5 % in Survey 2, and 87.3 % in Survey 3 indicates the proportion of patients who had pain in the last 24 hours before the time of interview” were deleted from the abstract section.

Reviewer’s comments on the main text:
Reviewer:
1) Please make the following changes:
1.1.Remove article number 7 and add:
Response: We have accepted the reviewer’s comments and removed article #7 and replaced with the suggested reference as indicated in introduction section on page 3 line 57 and reference section on page 21 line 436.

Reviewer:
1.2. Add article: page 4, line 59
The Ethiopian Public Health Association. Baseline evaluation of pain management practices and
teaching in health facilities and health training schools in Ethiopia. 2011
Response: we have inserted the suggested reference in introduction section on page 3 line 65 as reference #9 and included it in the lists of references on page 21 line 443.

Reviewer:
1.3. Remove article number 11 and add
Tomaszek L, Dębka G. Knowledge, compliance with good clinical practices and barriers to effective control of postoperative pain among nurses from hospitals with and without a "Hospital without Pain" certificate. Journal of Clinical Nursing 2018;27(7-8):1641-52.
Response: we have removed article 11 and inserted the suggested references in introduction section on page 3 line 69 as a reference #12 and #13 and as well as it was indicated in the lists of references on page 21 line 447 and 450 respectively.

Reviewer:
1.4. Page 6, line 103: Check citation number 2 - I think it should be citation number 10.
Response: Yes, the reviewer is right. We have replaced citation #2 with citation #10 which is now #11 as indicated in method section under a nurse-based pain management programme on page 5 line 110.

Reviewer:
1.6. Page 8, line 151-152 - remove statement “The reliability report….from 0.68-0.80"
Response: as suggested by the reviewer, we have removed the statement” The reliability report of BPI items ranges from 0.80–0.92(30), while the APS-POQ-R ranges from 0.68–0.80(31)”.

Reviewer:
1.7. Page 9, line 178-180 - it is written that acute pain lasts less than 6 months and chronic pain lasts longer than 6 months. According to my knowledge acute pain lasts less than 3 months and chronic pain lasts longer than 3 months [citation number 5 - definition of chronic pain ,, Ongoing or recurrent pain lasting beyond the usual course of acute illness or injury or, generally, more than 3 to 6 months and adversely affecting the individual's well-being”. Treede RD, Rief W, Barke A, et al. A classification of chronic pain for ICD-11. Pain. 2015;156(6):1003-1007: Chronic pain was defined as persistent or recurrent pain lasting longer than 3 months.

Therefore, you should update table 1.
Response: Thank you very much for your comment on the classification of chronic pain. In addition to the evidence you provided us, other define chronic pain as “a pain that is ongoing and usually lasts longer than six months” https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/12051-acute-vs-chronic-pain. In our study we have based our questions on this definition and the patients gave their responses to the item “In general, how long it is since you had this pain?” as “1. Less than a week, 2. 1 to 2 weeks, 3. 2 to 4 weeks, 4. One month to six months, and 5. More than six months.” Therefore, we consider it not appropriate to update table 1 based on three months as cut of line for chronic pain. But, we have removed descriptions related to duration of pain in method section under measurements which was
found on page 8 between line 180 and 181 and as well as from table 1.

Reviewer’s comments on the References:
There is a particular need to improve the References list (incorrect tab space). Capitalize the first letters of all main words in the title of a journal, and all first letters of a place name and publisher.
Response: We have made amendments to the reference section for corrections.