Author’s response to reviews

Title: Looking behind the scenes. - A qualitative perspective on barriers to evidence-based practice in patient counseling and advocacy in Germany.

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In the revised version following changes were made:

1. the title page was included by adding: full names, addresses and contact details of all authors, key words.

2. the abstract was shortened from 157 to 149 words and revised.

Methods:

a. "Interviews were analyzed using the Grounded Theory method based on the paradigm of Strauss and Corbin."

b. "Though there are several hindering factors, there is also a growing awareness that EbM practice could help to improve contemporary patient counseling and advocacy when training is provided in needs-based formats and facilitated by health policy interventions that support interdisciplinary collaboration."

b. "Despite the numerous hindering factors, there is also a growing awareness that EbM practice could help to improve patient counseling and advocacy in future when training is provided in needs-based formats and facilitated by health policy interventions that support interdisciplinary collaboration."

3. line and page numbers were added along the whole manuscript.

4. A section titled "Ethical Considerations" (line 118-121) was included in the methods part.

"Ethical considerations: Our research involved only semi-structured questionnaires and de-identified interviews. The interviews were on a voluntary basis and informed consent was obtained from each participant before data collection. Therefore, our ethical review board did not request an ethical approval."