Author's response to reviews

Title: Barriers to diabetic foot care in a developing country with a high incidence of diabetes related amputations: an exploratory qualitative interview study

Authors:

Cornelia Guell (cornelia.guell@mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk)
Nigel Unwin (nigel.unwin@cavehill.uwi.edu)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Rademakers and Dr Arah,

We submit for your consideration an original research article entitled **Barriers to diabetic foot care in a developing country with a high incidence of diabetes related amputations: an exploratory qualitative interview study.**

This is the first qualitative study on barriers to diabetic foot care from a developing country setting. The study aimed to carry out exploratory research in a resource-poor setting with scarce podiatry care despite high amputation rates. The challenge, particularly in less well-resourced health care systems, is how to implement effective foot care that realises its potential health gains and cost savings. Our overall goal was to inform further work towards the development of interventions. We were particularly interested in how foot care is prioritised by health care providers within a resource limited health system and by patients within the competing demands of their everyday lives.

Interviews with patients and health professionals indicated persistent emphasis on tight glycaemic control that diminished the priority given to foot examination and care; a recent shift in foot care responsibilities to nurses without adequate support and clear definition of roles; and an overreliance on patients accessing foot care proactively.

We declare that this qualitative study adheres to the qualitative research review guidelines – RATS (http://www.biomedcentral.com/authors/rats).

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**Suggested reviewers:**
Nahid Dehghan Nayeri
Department of Medical Surgical
School of Nursing and Midwifery
Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran
dehghann@sina.tums.ac.ir
Naomi Levitt  
Division of Diabetes and Endocrinology  
Department of Medicine  
University of Cape Town, South Africa  
Naomi.levitt@uct.ac.za  

Antje Kampf  
Institute for the History, Theory and Ethics of Medicine  
University Medical Centre  
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany  
antje.kampf@gmx.de  

Yours sincerely,  

Cornelia Guell, PhD