Author’s response to reviews

Title: Low back pain in older adults: risk factors, management options and future directions

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

The authors are grateful for you and the Reviewers for reviewing our revised manuscript. We have addressed the suggestions from the Reviewers and highlighted our changes in blue. We hope that the current revised manuscript can meet the standard for publication in Scoliosis and Spinal Disorders.

Reviewer #1:

Comment:
This is well written paper. The information in this paper is beneficial. There is no further concern.

Response:
We are grateful for the reviewer’s time and effort to review our manuscript.

REVIEWER #2

Comment 1:
The paper is much better now. Just a couple of comments. It's not clear if the number of included articles is 309 or 320, since numbers are different among the authors reply and the text.

Response:

Thank you for the comment and pointing out the typo. There was a typo in the previously submitted manuscript. We have entered the correct number (320) in the revised manuscript (See “Search Strategies and Selection Criteria” section, Page 6, line 2).

Comment 2:

Considering the newly added text, it would be worth to report that for LSS, a recent Cochrane by Zaina et al has reported similar benefits between surgery and conservative treatment, with many more side effects for surgery that usually tend to increase with age.

Response:

The authors would like to thank the Reviewer for his/her comment. In the revised manuscript, we have discussed the results from the Cochrane review prepared by Zaina et al. We also emphasized that clinicians should weigh the benefits and risks of surgery for each individual patient with lumbar spinal stenosis (See the “Lumbar Surgery” section, Page 31 line 35 to Page 32, line 29).