Author’s response to reviews

Title: Living with osteoarthritis is a balancing act: An exploration of patients' beliefs about knee pain

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Dear Dr Majeed

Thank you for your letter describing final changes to be made. We have responded point by point below:

1. Please change the "Introduction" heading to 'Background'.

We have changed this.
2. As a member of the editorial board (Rebecca Grainger) of this journal, in order to ensure transparency, please declare this in the Competing Interests section of the Declarations.

We have noted this in the Competing Interests section

3. We note that the datasets (table 2 and the additional files) contains potentially identifiable information. It is BioMed Central policy to not publish more than 2 indirect identifiers without explicit consent for publication from the participants, as per this paper (http://trialsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1745-6215-11-9).

Currently, the age, gender, occupation and ethnicity information, in combination with other identifiers, may compromise patient/participant anonymity.

Please amend the files to address this issue, by removing this information or by providing ages as age-ranges.

We thank you for pointing this out. We have altered the table to include age ranges, occupational categories, ranges for duration of knee pain. As a result there are only two indirect identifiers.

4. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.
We have uploaded a clean version.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Ben Darlow