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Letter to Kawijara et al.: Letter in response to "Effects of caregiver dementia training in caregiver-patient dyads"

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Dear Editor,

We thank Dr. Kajiwara and his colleagues for their interest in our article and the valuable comments they have made.

The question was raised why we, in contrast with earlier research on this kind of intervention, had chosen for Quality of Life as primary outcome and not for anxiety or depression. We considered the quality of life measured by the CarerQol, a more adequate parameter as it reflects the impact of informal care on the caregiver in a broader sense. Moreover, the CarerQol also takes into account positive care dimensions such as fulfillment and support of other informal caregivers.

When designing or adapting interventions for the caregiver, we agree we have to take gender differences on the effect of the intervention into account. In addition, qualitative outcomes of further research can help to determine which adaptations would be most relevant.

All participating dyads were heterosexual couples who were living together. We agree it would be interesting to know more about the quality of the relationship between the caregivers and the persons with dementia, and on distribution of care giving hours related to gender roles, however we did not collect data on this subject.

In addition, we are also very interested in potential differences for informal caregivers that are not spouse, but children, and informal care givers from several cultural backgrounds. Future work should address these issues.

KEYWORDS

caregiver, dementia, psychological intervention, training

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