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Erratum: Quality of life for caregivers of patients with mental illness in Qassim region: Cross-sectional study

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Erratum to:

Alharbi MM, Almazayad FH, Alsalmi AA, Alharbi YM, Alkhumayri AS, Alolayan FA, Albeshar MA, Alshaya AK, Almishali FF. Quality of life for caregivers of patients with mental illness in Qassim region: Cross-sectional study. *Medical Science* 2022; 26:ms502e2595.

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1. ERRATUM — Request (Cover Letter)

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Date: June 7, 2026

Re: Request for Formal Correction of Published Abstract **Article Title:** *Quality of Life for Caregivers of Patients with Mental Illness in Qassim Region: A Cross-Sectional Study*
DOI / Article ID: <https://doi.org/10.54905/disssi/v26i129/ms502e2595>

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

I am writing to formally bring to your attention a matter of significant concern regarding the above-referenced article published in *medical science*. Following a thorough and careful review of the full manuscript, I have identified critical and substantial discrepancies between the published abstract and the actual content of the study as reported in the Methods, Results, and Conclusion sections of the paper. The current published abstract does not accurately represent the study. Specifically, the abstract appears to describe an entirely different study one involving medical students at Umm Al-Qura University (n = 410) whereas the actual research investigates the quality of life and burden experienced by caregivers of patients with mental illness (n = 110) at Eradah Mental Health Hospital in the Qassim region, Saudi Arabia.

The identified errors are as follows:

- Incorrect Study Population:** The abstract refers to “medical students” as participants, whereas the actual study population consists of caregivers of patients with mental illness.
- Wrong Institutional Setting:** The abstract names Umm Al-Qura University as the study site, while the research was conducted at Eradah Mental Health Hospital, Qassim region.
- Inaccurate Sample Size:** The abstract reports 410 participants; the actual sample comprised 110 caregivers.
- Mismatched Demographics:** The abstract reports a mean age below 22 years and 73.7% male participants, which conflicts with the actual data showing a predominant age group of 35–50 years (43.6%) and 66.4% male caregivers.
- Unrelated Statistical Findings:** The abstract cites student mental health prevalence rates (11.7% diagnosed; 8.3% medicated), which are irrelevant to the actual study. The paper reports that 39.0% of patients had schizophrenia and 28.6% had bipolar disorder.
- Incorrect Conclusion:** The abstract concludes that mental illness negatively affects students’ academic performance, which is entirely unrelated to the study’s actual conclusion regarding caregiver burden and quality of life.
- Omission of Validated Measurement Instruments:** The abstract fails to mention the two validated tools used in the study: the Arabic version of the Zarit Burden Interview (ZBI-A) and the WHO Quality of Life Scale (WHOQOL-BREF).

These inaccuracies fundamentally misrepresent the nature, scope, and findings of the research. They risk misleading readers, compromising the scientific integrity of the publication, and affecting accurate indexing and citation of this important work on caregiver burden in mental health settings. I respectfully request that the journal undertake the following corrective action:

- Issue a formal **Erratum** or **Correction Notice** replacing the current abstract with the accurate version enclosed herein.
- Update all online versions of the article, including those hosted on indexing databases (e.g., PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science), to reflect the corrected abstract.

Enclosed with this letter, please find:

- Enclosure A:** Detailed error analysis with a side-by-side comparison of the published abstract versus the actual study content.
- Enclosure B:** The corrected abstract, accurately reflecting the study’s methodology, results, and conclusions.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and remain fully available to provide any additional information, clarification, or documentation required to facilitate the correction process. Thank you for your time, cooperation, and commitment to scientific accuracy.

Yours sincerely,

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2. ENCLOSURE A: Detailed Error Analysis

Comparative Analysis: Published Abstract vs. Actual Study Content

#	Error Category	Published Abstract (Incorrect)	Actual Study Content (Correct)
1	Study Population & Objective	Aims to assess the influence of mental illness on medical students at Umm Al-Qura University	Aims to evaluate the burden and quality of life of caregivers of patients with mental illness in the Qassim region
2	Study Setting & Participants	“All medical students in years 2–6 at Umm Al-Qura University”	Conducted at Eradah Mental Health Hospital, Qassim region ; included 110 caregivers of mentally ill patients
3	Sample Size	410 students	110 caregivers
4	Demographics	73.7% male; 97.3% Saudi; 59.6% aged <22 years	66.4% male ; predominant age group 35–50 years (43.6%)
5	Mental Health Statistics	“11.7% of students diagnosed with a mental health condition; 8.3% received medication”	39.0% of patients had schizophrenia; 28.6% had bipolar disorder

6	Conclusion	“Mental illness negatively affects students’ academic performance; psychiatric monitoring programs can minimize its impact”	Focused on caregiver burden and quality of life ; older caregivers and those caring for schizophrenia patients experience greater burden
7	Measurement Instruments	Not mentioned	ZBI-A (Zarit Burden Interview – Arabic version) and WHOQOL-BREF (WHO Quality of Life Scale)

Detailed Description of Each Error

Error 1 – Incorrect Study Population and Objective The published abstract states that the study aimed to “determine the influence of mental illness and poor psychiatric monitoring programs on the mind of medical students attending Umm Al-Qura University.” This is factually incorrect. As clearly documented in the Introduction and Methods sections of the full paper, the study’s primary objective was to assess the burden experienced by caregivers of patients diagnosed with mental illness in the Qassim region, Saudi Arabia, and to evaluate the factors affecting their quality of life.

Error 2 – Wrong Study Setting and Participants The abstract incorrectly identifies the study site as Umm Al-Qura University and describes participants as medical students. In reality, the study was conducted at Eradah Mental Health Hospital in the Qassim region and enrolled 110 adult caregivers (male and female, aged >18 years) of patients with established psychiatric diagnoses.

Error 3 – Inaccurate Sample Size The abstract reports a total of 410 participants. The actual study included only 110 caregivers. This discrepancy represents a threefold overestimation and significantly misrepresents the study’s scale.

Error 4 – Mismatched Demographic Data The abstract reports that approximately three-quarters of participants were male (73.7%), the majority were Saudi (97.3%), and over half were under 22 years of age (59.6%). None of these figures correspond to the actual study data. The actual sample comprised 66.4% male caregivers, with the largest age group being 35–50 years (43.6%).

Error 5 – Unrelated Statistical Findings The abstract states that “11.7% of students had been diagnosed with a mental health condition and 8.3% had received medications.” These figures are entirely unrelated to the actual study, which found that among the patients being cared for, 39.0% had schizophrenia and 28.6% had bipolar disorder.

Error 6 – Incorrect Conclusion The abstract concludes that “having a mental illness can have a negative effect on students’ academic performance” and that “competent psychiatric monitoring programs can minimize the influence of mental illness.” This conclusion bears no relation to the actual study’s findings, which focused on caregiver burden, quality of life domains, and the significant impact of patient diagnosis (particularly schizophrenia) on caregiver well-being.

Error 7 – Omission of Key Measurement Instruments The published abstract does not mention the validated tools used in the study. The actual research employed: - The **Arabic version of the Zarit Burden Interview (ZBI-A)** to assess caregiver burden. - The **WHO Quality of Life Scale (WHOQOL-BREF)** to evaluate caregivers’ quality of life across four domains: physical, psychological, social, and environmental.

3. ENCLOSURE B: Corrected Abstract

Title: Quality of Life for Caregivers of Patients with Mental Illness in Qassim Region: A Cross-Sectional Study

Background/Objective: Caregivers of patients with mental illness often experience significant psychological, physical, and social burden, yet their quality of life (QoL) remains understudied compared to that of the patients themselves. This study aimed to evaluate the burden and quality of life of caregivers of patients with mental illnesses in the Qassim region, Saudi Arabia, and to identify the key factors influencing their QoL, using the Arabic version of the Zarit Burden Interview (ZBI-A) and the WHO Quality of Life Scale (WHOQOL-BREF).

Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted at Eradah Mental Health Hospital in the Qassim region, Saudi Arabia, from April 2021 to April 2022. The study included 110 adult caregivers (male and female, aged >18 years) of patients with an established diagnosis of mental illness. Data were collected through an electronic self-reported questionnaire. Caregiver burden was assessed using the validated Arabic version of the Zarit Burden Interview (ZBI-A), and quality of life was measured using the WHO Quality of Life Scale (WHOQOL-BREF). Data were analyzed using SPSS software.

Results: A total of 110 caregivers participated, comprising 66.4% males and 33.6% females. The predominant caregiver age group was 35–50 years (43.6%). Among the patients being cared for, 39.0% had schizophrenia and 28.6% had bipolar disorder. The mean overall QoL score was 13.54, with the physical health domain recording the highest score (15.51). Approximately 40.9% of caregivers reported a caregiving duration of 10–20 years. Caregivers’ age, educational level, marital status, and the patient’s diagnosis were statistically significant factors influencing QoL domain scores. Caregivers of patients with schizophrenia experienced a significantly higher total burden score compared to those caring for patients with bipolar disorder.

Conclusion: Caregivers’ satisfaction with their physical and emotional health, environmental conditions, and educational attainment are key determinants of their quality of life. Older caregivers and those providing care for patients with schizophrenia are at greater

risk of experiencing elevated burden. Targeted psychosocial interventions addressing these specific factors are strongly recommended to improve the overall quality of life of caregivers of individuals with mental illness in the Qassim region and similar settings.

This correspondence package was prepared based on a systematic and detailed comparison between the published abstract and the full text of the research article.

Sincerely,

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest, competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have influenced the work reported in this erratum.

Data and materials availability

All data associated with this study will be available based on the reasonable request to corresponding author.

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1. Alharbi MM, Almazyad FH, Alsalhi AA, Alharbi YM, Alkhumayri AS, Alolayan FA, Albeshar MA, Alshaya AK, Almishali FF. Quality of life for caregivers of patients with mental illness in Qassim region: Cross-sectional study. *Medical Science* 2022; 26:ms502e2595. doi: <https://doi.org/10.54905/disssi/v26i129/ms502e2595>