

## AUTHORS' REPLY

# Health-related quality of life in sickle cell disease

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We appreciate the interest in health-related quality of life (HRQOL) in patients with sickle cell disease (SCD) and in our Primer (Sickle cell disease, *Nat. Rev. Dis. Primers* **4**, 18010 (2018))<sup>1</sup> by Dr Maynié-François and Dr Burtey in their correspondence (Comparing health-related quality of life in chronic diseases: the importance of analysing references. *Nat. Rev. Dis. Primers* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41572-019-0082-3> (2019))<sup>2</sup>. Our goal with the figure illustrating HRQOL in SCD and other chronic diseases was specifically to focus on physical functioning and to help frame the burden of the disease for this patient population. We agree that there are

no data directly comparing HRQOL of patients with SCD to that of patients with other chronic diseases. Thus, we can only compare current data from patients with SCD with previously published data from other chronic disease populations, and such comparisons present limitations. This difficulty highlights the need for additional research in HRQOL in SCD to continue to advance our knowledge in this area, including more-direct and contemporary comparisons with other diseases. Previously underappreciated, HRQOL assessments can help to guide health policy, resource allocation and strategic plans, and to assess effectiveness of interventions.

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1. Kato, G. J. et al. Sickle cell disease. *Nat. Rev. Dis. Primers* **4**, 18010 (2018).
2. Maynié-François, C. & Burtey, S. Comparing health-related quality of life in chronic diseases: the importance of analyzing references. *Nat. Rev. Dis. Primers* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41572-019-0082-3> (2019).

#### Competing interests

J.A.P. declares no competing interests. G.J.K. is listed as a co-inventor on a patent application by the US NIH for the formulation of topical sodium nitrite (PCT/US2015/060015), receives research support from Bayer Pharmaceuticals and has received research support from AesRx and personal consulting fees (honoraria) from Novartis and Bioverativ outside the submitted work. The University of Pittsburgh received support for G.J.K.'s salary to serve on the steering committee for a clinical trial by Mast Therapeutics. W.R.S. declares no competing interests.