

The Reply



Lawrence Mbuagbaw agrees that 2-way text messaging to enhance treatment adherence is more effective than 1-way text messaging.

He states that we made 2 errors in our meta-analysis,¹ claiming that the figure in our article is incorrect and that we misclassified his own trial.² These errors were not made, but in reviewing our article in the light of Mbuagbaw's letter, we identified that the number of adherent patients in the text and no-text groups of one of the trials (Pop-Eleches et al)³ should be 136 and 56, respectively (not 153 and 55 as published in our article). These numerical errors were not used in deriving the estimates of improved adherence in our article; the correct numbers were used, so that the figure in our article and the overall results are correct. The figure is reproduced here (Figure) with the correct numbers from the trial by Pop-Eleches et al.³

Unfortunately Mbuagbaw recalculated the results for the trial by Pop-Eleches et al³ using the incorrect numbers in our article,¹ deriving a relative improvement in adherence of 34% instead of 17%. The latter is the correct value, as given in our article.

The other error Mbuagbaw states that we made is that we classified his own trial² as a 1-way trial when, in his view, it should have been classified as a 2-way trial. In his trial he offered patients a telephone number to call if they wished, without any obligation to respond to a text message. In 2-way trials there is a requirement that patients respond to text messaging, otherwise they would be contacted. On this basis we believe that we were correct in classifying Mbuagbaw's trial as a 1-way trial in our meta-analysis but note that even if we had not, it would not have altered our conclusion.

Mbuagbaw incorrectly states that previous meta-analyses^{4,5} demonstrated the superiority of 2-way text messaging over 1-way text messaging on medication adherence. This is incorrect because the 2 methods were not compared in these articles. Our meta-analysis did this and showed that 2-way messaging is better than 1-way.

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Conflict of Interest: DSW has received a grant from Queen Mary Innovation to design medication adherence software and has an interest in its development.

Authorship: All authors had access to the data and a role in writing the manuscript.

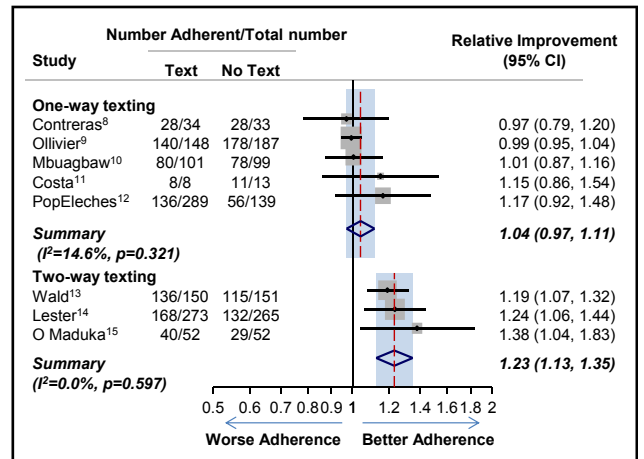


Figure Corrected figure from: Wald DS, Butt S, Bestwick JP. One-way vs two-way text messaging on improving medication adherence: meta-analysis of randomized trials. *Am J Med.* 2015;128:1139.

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