

We would like to thank XXXXX for their positive feedback on our study of the experiences of older adults living with a cleft lip and/or palate (CL/P) in relation to aging and appearance.

We agree that demographic information such as socioeconomic and educational level may impact on older adults' experiences of living with a cleft, particularly as they were growing up at a time when specialist cleft care was not accessible as it is in the UK today. In-depth exploration of participants' demographic information and its impact on their CL/P care and outcomes was outside the remit of the current study, but is definitely be an area worthy of further research.

Within our article we found that living with a CL/P did have an impact on some participants' social and romantic relationships. We agree that the protective factors of a romantic relationship and/or good social support could contribute over a person's lifetime to their resilience towards the challenges of living with a CL/P (or any other visible difference) and we do hope that future research will explore this in greater depth in the older adult population.

In conclusion, the experiences and support needs of older adults living with a CL/P remain under-researched and we are pleased that our explorative study has prompted discussion around the need for future research in this area.