Author's response to reviews

Title: Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels Are Associated with Carotid Atherosclerosis in Normotensive and Euglycemic Chinese Postmenopausal women: The Shanghai Changfeng Study

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Response letter

Dear editors,

We really appreciate the reviewers’ careful suggestions to our revised draft entitled “Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels Are Associated with Carotid Atherosclerosis in Normotensive and Euglycemic Chinese Postmenopausal women: The Shanghai Changfeng Study” (MS: 1509363424137354). We have carefully taken their comments into consideration in completing our revision.

The followings are our point-by-point response to reviewers’ comments. Changes in the text are made accordingly (highlighted in red in the text).

Reviewer’s report:

I appreciate the thorough answers to my previous review and believe that the paper is improved. I have no further major compulsory revisions.

I would recommend a few minor essential revisions:

(1) abstract: please add the statistical significance (either P values or 95%CI) for the CIMT results and plaque results.

Response: Thank you for the valuable suggestion. We take the advice and make the revisions accordingly in the abstract.

(2) line 91: "and" instead of "which"

Response: We have made the revisions accordingly.

(3) line 118: "evidence is" instead of "evidences are"

Response: We have made the revisions accordingly.
(4) line 198: "used" instead of "use" + add the result of the homogeneity test of variance

Response: We have made the revisions accordingly.

(5) line 227: add P value.

Response: We have made the revisions accordingly.

(6) line 232: add 95%CI

Response: We have made the revisions accordingly.

(7) line 236: drop "the"

Response: We have made the revisions accordingly.

(8) line 261: I agree that the results are not confounded by hypertension and diabetes. To state that they are "not confounded" at all is an overstatement which needs to be corrected.

Response: Thank you for the valuable suggestion. We take the advice and make the revisions accordingly.

(9) lines 300-312: the discussion is very long and could be shortened. This paragraph could be dropped.

Response: Thank you for the valuable suggestion. We take the advice and make the revisions accordingly.
the potential for confounding by lifestyle factors remains, particularly in the absence of data for physical activity and socio-economic status. This could be acknowledged.

Response: Thank you for the valuable suggestion. We take the advice and make the revisions accordingly.