Author's response to reviews

Title: Under-treatment and under diagnosis of hypertension: A serious problem in the United Arab Emirates

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POINT-TO-POINT RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS' REPORTS

Title: Under-treatment and under diagnosis of hypertension:...Emirates

Reviewer: Gregory Lip

We fully agree that it is important to emphasize the high% of expats in the UAE population. We have now included a sentence stating that approximately 80% of the population consists of ex-pats, and emphasized the lack of knowledge about their blood pressure status.

Reviewer: Michel Joffres

1. The 2000 national survey only included UAE citizens. Although the report of this survey states that information was collected about whether participants were taking medication for high blood pressure, no information about this issue was provided by the report.

2.1. We corrected the numbers. Numbers in Abstract and Results sections now agree.
2.2. We agree with the reviewer that exclusion of individuals with complications is less than optimal and somewhat unusual. Fortunately, nobody met the exclusion criteria. We have now stated that explicitly in our revised ms.
2.3 The questionnaire was piloted before use and adjusted accordingly. We have added a sentence explaining this. The questionnaire was translated by a group of individuals fluent in both languages, but no back translation was done at the time.
2.4 Excellent point. We will take that into account in future studies and choose sitting BP in the future. Unfortunately it is not possible to change this choice now.
2.5 We have added a line in the table providing information on waist circumference, too.

3. Done. We added a short sentence explaining the phrase "incident hypertensives" to the tables to make them more self explanatory.

5.1. We added references to studies carried out elsewhere and pointed out that the problem appears to be widespread in many parts of the world

5.2. We added a sentence pointing out that this is a convenience sample.

6. Information about stratification has been added to the abstract.