Author's response to reviews

Title: Role of Life Events in the Presence of Colon Polyps among African Americans

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Author's response to reviews:

May 6, 2013
Dr. Christopher Foote
Executive Editor
BMC Gastroenterology

Dear Dr. Foote:

Enclosed is our revised manuscript entitled “Role of Life Events in the Presence of Colon Polyps among African Americans”.

First of all, we would like to thank you for your comments and suggestions. Our publication surely benefited from your reviews that are addressed below and in the text of the present manuscript.

Associate Editor Minor Comments:

Abstract
1. Add that this was a cross-sectional study
Response: It was added to abstract and method.

2. Please provide median with interquartile range in abstract.
Response: It was added to abstract

3. What do you mean by total, positive or negative life event scores were not different between normal and adenoma patients?
Distribution of total, positive and negative life event score were not significantly different between patients who have adenoma and who did not have adenoma.

4. Modify conclusion? this is purely an association and no evidence for causation; polyps probably may have developed before perceived stress related to life events as estimated by this questionnaire.
We modify the conclusion.

5. Please also clarify that there was no difference between life event scores between adenomatous and hyperplastic polyps (or absence of polyps).
Response: These were addressed in conclusion.

Methods:

6. Again, the authors have failed to modify the ?Methods? to reflect that the questionnaire assessed life events in the last 12 months, and not lifetime ?
Response: We clarify this in the method section.

7. The authors did not note any difference in the risk of adenomatous v. non-adenomatous polyps or absence of polyps with regard to conventional risk factors like smoking, BMI etc. This should be reported.
Response: These were reported under “Predictors of life event Life Events score” in results.

Discussion:

8. The sentence, ?Due to stress, the release of hormones affects the biological process of the cells and hence alters health-related behaviors? in Para 3, appears out of place. Consider revising
Response: We deleted the paragraph.

Editorial Comments:
Competing interests: If there are none to declare, please write 'The authors declare that they have no competing interests'.
Response: We added the statement.

The questions that are asked of authors are:

Financial competing interests:
Response: None

Authors’ contributions:
Response: We have added the 'Authors' contributions' section before the Acknowledgements and Reference list.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely

Hassan Ashktorab, Ph.D.