Author’s response to reviews

Title: Genetic association study of selected candidate genes (APOB, LPL, LEPTIN) and telomere length in obese and hypertensive individuals.

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Author’s response to reviews:

To 7th July 2009
Editor-in-Chief,
BMC Medical Genetics,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am submitting the revised manuscript (MS: 9657831702395905) entitled, “GENETIC ASSOCIATION STUDY OF SELECTED CANDIDATE GENES (APOB, LPL, LEPTIN) AND TELOMERE LENGTH IN OBESE AND HYPERTENSIVE INDIVIDUALS.” authored by Birajalaxmi Das, Nilambari Pawar, Divyalakshmi Saini and M. Seshadri to your esteemed journal.

We have tried our best to respond all the comments and suggestions made by referee 2 point by point and incorporated those in the revised manuscript. The corrected portions are highlighted in yellow in the revised manuscript.

First of all, we have changed the title of the manuscript. As suggested by the reviewer we have incorporated “Length” in the place of “attrition” in the title. The revised title is as follows: “GENETIC ASSOCIATION STUDY OF SELECTED CANDIDATE GENES (APOB, LPL, LEPTIN) AND TELOMERE LENGTH IN OBESE AND HYPERTENSIVE INDIVIDUALS.”

We fully agree with reviewer’s valuable comments regarding statistical analysis. Therefore, we have incorporated telomere length after adjusting with age and gender. The statistical methods used in the study is incorporated in the “statistical Analysis” Section. In the “Results Section” we have also incorporated results after performing Regression analysis, pairwise comparisons and ANCOVA. All these have been incorporated in the “Results” Section.

As suggested by the reviewer we have deleted figure 3A and figure B and the P values for regression analysis has been incorporated in the text (Results Section).
I am also providing a separate reply for the reviewer 2.

Hope, we have replied all the queries and suggestions made by the reviewer.

Awaiting for a positive response.

Thanking you,
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Reply to Reviewer 2.

First of all, we are thankful to referee 2 for appreciating our efforts in the revision of the manuscript.

We would like to thank referee 2 for critically evaluating our manuscript, especially in terms of statistics. We have tried our best to reply point by point to referee’s comments. The corrected portions are highlighted in yellow in the revised manuscript.

We fully agree to the suggestions made by referee regarding the determination of telomere length after adjusting the effect of age. Therefore, we have performed statistical analysis using Statosoft. ANCOVA was performed where age was taken as the variable. After adjusting the effect of age, we have determined the telomere length in normal, obese and hypertensive group. The detailed data is also incorporated in the revised manuscript (“Materials and Methods” and “Results” section).

We have also done regression analysis to study the relationship between age and telomere length in all the three groups. As suggested we have mentioned the P values in the text (“Results Section”). Pairwise comparisons have been made among the groups (normal, obese and hypertensive) to find out the difference between the groups.

As suggested we have deleted figure 3A and figure B from the revised manuscript and mentioned the P values.

Minor Essential revisions:

As rightly pointed out, we have replaced “length” in place of “telomere attrition” in the title of the manuscript. The title in the revised manuscript is as follows:

“GENETIC ASSOCIATION STUDY OF SELECTED CANDIDATE GENES (APOB, LPL, LEPTIN) AND TELOMERE LENGTH IN OBESE AND HYPERTENSIVE INDIVIDUALS.”
Discretionary revisions:

1. On page no. 7, we have made an error in mentioning the standard error between replicates as $> 0.5$, which is highly regretted. In the revised manuscript we have corrected the mistake and mentioned the right values, which is $\leq 0.5$ (smaller than equal to).

We hope we have answered all the queries point by point raised by reviewer. We are very much thankful for the valuable suggestions and comments.

Awaiting for a positive response.

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