Author's response to reviews

Title: Molecular Analysis Using DHPLC of Cystic Fibrosis: Increase of the Mutation Detection Rate Among the affected Population in Central Italy.

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Dear Prof Matthew Hodgkinson,

The manuscript “\textbf{Molecular Analysis Using DHPLC of Cystic Fibrosis: Increase of the Mutation Detection Rate Among the affected Population in Central Italy}” has been edited. Furthermore, according to your requests, contents have been modified as follow:

- The abstract contains a separate Results section and a Conclusion section.
- The reference for “high allelic heterogeneity” is Estivill et al, Hum Mutat 1997, as now indicated;
- We don’t have a reference for the basis of clinical diagnosis at Ospedale Bambino Gesù and for the standard panels of CFTR mutations.
- As now explained, the DHPLC is useful in mutation detection in heterogeneous populations. We reached a detection sensitivity of 88\% similar to that observed in other Italian regions and other Mediterranean populations only using this scanning technique
- As now explained, we recommend caution in diagnostic DHPLC method.
- We included more detail in the figure legend;
- Table 3 were modified as suggested;
- The conclusions are expanded.

I do hope that this revised version meets your approval for publication in BMC Medical Genetics as a Technical Advance Article.

Yours sincerely

Maria Rosaria D’Apice