Author's response to reviews

Title: Hypothyroidism attenuates protein tyrosine nitration, oxidative stress and renal damage induced by ischemia and reperfusion: effect unrelated to antioxidant enzymes activity

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Editor  
BMC Nephrology

Dear Editor:

I am attaching our point by-point response and the revised version of our manuscript. The points raised by you and by the reviewer 1 were carefully considered and pertinent amendments were performed. We hope this revised version could be suitable for publication in BMC Nephrology.

Best regards

José Pedraza-Chaverri, PhD

POINT BY POINT RESPONSE

(A) THE BIOMED CENTRAL EDITORIAL TEAM

1. The manuscript was revised according to the formatting checklist, to ensure that this revised manuscript conforms to all of the points.

2. The style of the following paragraphs: "We studied four groups...." under Ischemia and reperfusion studies and starting the discussion with "Our data states...." was changed "Four groups of rats were studied" and "The data presented in this work", respectively.

(B) REVIEWER 1

1. By including the tables in the manuscript and increasing the number of references to 80 is in a way giving the research manuscript a look of a review article! The introduction should contain only the crux of the review of literature. Moreover, the discussion of the manuscript is still tiny as compared to the other sections.
   
   R1. We reduced substantially the extension of the Background and included most of these data and tables 1 and 2 (now tables 1 and 2) in the discussion. The discussion was clearly expanded in this revised version. We included this number of references to answer satisfactorily the major compulsory revision in which an extensive literature search was requested.

2. For the reproduction of the methods, just replacing the “Kidney was homogenized…” with “Renal cortex, outer medulla and inner medulla were homogenized…” does not fit into the homogenization part. The point which needs explanation is: whether and how the cortex and medulla was separated and processed further for enzymatic analysis.
   
   R2. This following phrase was added at the end of “Ischemia and reperfusion studies”: “Areas of the kidney (renal cortex, outer medulla and inner medulla) were macroscopically dissected using a razor blade and frozen at -70°C for further measurement of enzymatic activities.”

3. What were the thyroxine levels of the animals on the day of IR procedures? And how the body weight varied for the 15 days of thyroidectomy?

   R3.1 The thyroxine levels 15 days after surgical thyroidectomy or sham operation (before IR) are included in the text. We chose by a simple randomized method 10 rats of each group to measure thyroxine, Ca²⁺ and phosphate. These determinations were performed in additional groups of rats which were decapitated. This was to avoid anesthethic and hemolytic effects of the samples, which interfere for the determinations of T4 (Receptors and thyroid function test. The Group L.J. EDs. Groop and Stranton. Philadelphia, PA., 1978).
R3.2. Thank you very much for this very important observation which led us to review the body weight data before and after surgery. We are very grateful to the reviewer for this comment. We reviewed carefully our databases and it was discovered a regrettable error in the body weight data included in the former version of our manuscript. Please accept our apologies for the inclusion of mistaken data about the body weight of the animals. We have corrected these data in the present version and included in the abstract and in the section: “Induction of hypothyroidism.” The body weight gain was significantly lower in HTX (9 g) than in CT (42 g) rats 15 days after surgery. Again many thanks to the reviewer for this important query which avoided the inclusion of mistaken data.

4. The authors can cover the GFR part by calculating the creatinine clearance?
R4. Thank you for this valuable suggestion. Unfortunately, 24-h urine of these rats was not collected which prevented us to measure urinary creatinine and to calculate creatinine clearance.