Author's response to reviews

Title: Weak grip strength unveils vitamin D deficiency A cross-sectional study of pregnant and newly pregnant women in Sweden

Authors:

Paul Kalliokoski (paul.kalliokoski@ltdalarna.se)
Yngve Bergqvist (ybq@du.se)
Monica Löfvander (monica.lofvander@ki.se)

Version: 2 Date: 28 June 2013

Author's response to reviews:

Borlänge 130628

Dear Editor,

We sincerely thank the reviewers for their valuable comments on our manuscript MS 20288709245907280. As suggested by the first reviewer, our manuscript has been given a new title: Muscular performance and 25-OH D vitamin. A cross-sectional study of pregnant and newly pregnant Swedish and Somali women (formerly: Weak grip strength unveils vitamin D. A cross-sectional study of pregnant and newly pregnant Swedish and Somali women)

We have tried our best to correct our text according to the reviewers suggestions. The major changes are more references as suggested by both reviewers, and that statistics is slightly revised for clarity as suggested by reviewer 2. Also the text about the sampling procedure is reorganised in order to make it easier for the reader to follow the procedure.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the authors
Paul Kalliokoski

Below we give our answers and considerations on the changes in the text. We have numbered the questions in order of appearance.

Reviewer I (M. Holick). Marked in green colour.

1a. Sorry about this, the reference to Bishoff -Ferraris article on leg tests and vitamin D had been eradicated by mistake in our previous revised text. It is now in its place in the introduction and again in the discussion part, p 3. The introduction is reorganised and sun exposure etc. is now first in the section.

1b. Also, Houston DK,Tooze JA, Neiberg RH et al, Am J Epidemiology. .The
health, aging and body com 25-Hydroxvitamin D status and change in physical performance and strength in older adults position study 2012;176:1025-1034 is now added to the reference list (published after our first draft). p. 3 and p. 12.

2. We agree. We have removed this statement and changed the title, see above. and also the conclusion in the abstract, p 2. and the main text, p. 11.

3. We agree and apologise. We have changed the spelling, p. 3.

4. We have added more references especially regarding vitamin D and muscle strength (n=2 Houston and Girgis) p. 3 but also regarding clothing (Cannel) and latitude (Webb), p 3. Also on pp. 13.

Reviewer II (CL. Wagner), Marked in lilac colour.

Major comment: Continuing breastfeeding during pregnancy was a minor issue and concerned only one Somali woman. see p. 9. Furthermore, there was no relationship between lactation and physical performance, see page. 9. Also anemia and glucose was checked for, please see page. 8, and also pp. 6-7.

Other comments:
1. This sentence has been removed and the content is now moved to the first part in the introduction section, p. 3.
2. One more sentence is added on this aspect of adverse events in pregnancy, see p 4. We have also added the suggested references, page 3 and p. 13.
3. The whole text about the procedures is reorganised and hopefully the sequences of the tests are easier to follow now. Please, see p. 5.
4. The text regarding statistics has been revised and so has the text to the table legend pp. 7 and 19.
5. Only one woman had had a caesarean section two weeks before and this is noted on p 8... The questions about blood loss and analgesics are addressed. see p. 8. Only mild analgesics were used by these women (not narcotics).
6. a. The sentence about long-standing depletion is now removed because it was not in focus here and PTH was not associated to concurrent lactation, gestational age or recent delivery, noted now on p. 8.
6. b. Socio-cultural factors have been exemplified, please see page 9.
7. This part has been removed as suggested by the reviewer, please see page 10.
8. We agree, we have removed this part of the discussion, p. 11.
9. The question about the wash out effect is now removed, p. 11.