Title: Physical performance and 25-hydroxyvitamin D. A cross-sectional study of pregnant and newly pregnant Swedish and Somali women

Authors:

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Version: 6
Date: 23 October 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Borlänge 131023

Dear Editor,

We hereby submit our revised manuscript MS 2028709245907280. We sincerely thank the reviewer for the valuable comments. As suggested by the first reviewer the title is changed by an inserted word: 25-hydroxyvitamin D. The new title is "Physical performance and 25-hydroxyvitamin D. A cross-sectional study of pregnant and newly pregnant Swedish and Somali women". In addition we have made our best to correct our text according to the reviewer’s suggestions.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the authors

Paul Kalliokoski
Author’s response to review

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Reviewers' comments and authors responses point by point

Title: Physical performance and 25-OH D vitamin. A cross-sectional study of pregnant and newly pregnant Swedish and Somali women
Version: 5 Date: 18 September 2013
Reviewer: Michael Holick

Reviewer’s report:
1. It would have been helpful if the authors had responded to each of the suggested revisions rather than simply incorporating them into the manuscript.
   - We apologize for the inconvenience we have caused you. Thank you for your patience and all your constructive comments.

2. The authors need to be more clear and accurate about ultraviolet light and vitamin D. Since you cannot see ultraviolet radiation it is incorrect to call it ultraviolet light but rather ultraviolet radiation. Ultraviolet radiation does not increased skin synthesis but rather induces skin synthesis and not necessarily large quantities unless a large area is exposed. Also 6 months not all ultraviolet radiation is absorbed by the atmosphere. UVA radiation is still able to reach the earth even in Scandinavian countries. It is ultraviolet B radiation that is absorbed therefore there is no cutaneous production of vitamin D. This should be corrected.
   - Thank you for your suggestion. We have now changed the initial text in the background section. Please, see below:

   "Ultraviolet B radiation induces skin synthesis of vitamin D3. The sun is the most important source of ultraviolet B radiation. Preventing this radiation from reaching the skin will reduce vitamin D3 production [1, 2]. Through the heart of Scandinavia at the 60th parallel the angle of the sun limits the vitamin D3 production to the summer half year [3]. For the remaining six months the ultraviolet B radiation is absorbed in the atmosphere."

   - “UV light” has been changed to ultraviolet B radiation throughout the manuscript.
3. 25-hydroxyvitamin D should be spelled out in the title. Also the abbreviation should be 25(OH)D.

- The new title is; Physical performance and 25-hydroxyvitamin D. A cross-sectional study of pregnant and newly pregnant Swedish and Somali women
- 25-OH D has been changed to 25(OH)D throughout our revised manuscript.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.