Author's response to reviews

Title: Erythrocyte membrane anionic charge in type 2 diabetic patients with retinopathy

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Version: 2 Date: 2 August 2004

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Sir
1-We changed the CONCLUSIONS: We conclude that type 2 diabetic patients with low erythrocyte anionic charge are associated with diabetic retinopathy. Reduction of negative charge of basement membranes may indicate general changes in microvasculature rather than retinopathy. More prospective and large studies needs to clarify the role of glycosaminoglycans on progression of retinopathy in type 2 diabetic patients.
2- To clarify how we selected the patients in each group we wrote to the methods that:49 outpatients (27 male, 22 female) with type 2 diabetes mellitus diagnosed after the age of 30, were included and divided into 3 subgroups according to severity of retinopathy.
3- To mention how we excluded urinary tract infection we added that: Renal and bladder infection diseases of patients and controls were excluded biochemically and microbiologically.
4-To mention how we calculated the urinary albumin excretion we added that: In all patients, the annual level was determined as the mean of urinary albumin excretions in three 24 h urine collections taken at home during normal physical activity.
5- To clarify the microalbumin results we added to the results section: (R0 73 +/- 40 (35-250), R1 75 +/- 21 (50-202), R2 85 +/- 45 (56-224), mg/24 h, Table 2).