Author's response to reviews

Title: Pediatric non alcoholic fatty liver disease: old and new concepts on development, progression, metabolic insight and potential treatment targets

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We thank you very much for your useful comments. We are submitting the revised version of the manuscript entitled “Pediatric non alcoholic fatty liver disease: old and new concepts on development, progression, metabolic insight and potential treatment targets” by Giorgio V, Prono F, Graziano F and Nobili V. Please find attached a point by point reply to each comment.

We hope to have been satisfactory. Don’t hesitate to contact us in case of any other need of changes or question.

We hereby state that the paper is original and that is not under consideration elsewhere for similar purposes. Each author listed on the manuscript has seen and approved the submission of this version of the manuscript and takes full responsibility for the manuscript.

Conflict of interest: none.

In case of acceptance of the manuscript the copyright will be transferred to BMC Medicine.

Thank you in advance for your interest.

Best regards,

Valentina Giorgio, MD

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POINT BY POINT REPLY

1) Editor: Abstract- Please shorten this to no more than 175 words

Reply: we have shortened the abstract as requested.

2) Editor: Related review- We noticed a similar review which was published by Prof Nobili and colleagues last year in Nature Reviews Gastroenterol Hepatol. The details are below.
Pediatric nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: a multidisciplinary approach.
Alisi A, Feldstein AE, Villani A, Raponi M, Nobili V.
From a comparison of the abstracts, this review seems to cover a similar topic to the one submitted to BMC Medicine, but has not been cited. Please clarify how the two papers differ, and in particular how this review submitted to BMC Medicine presents a significant advance over current reviews published on the topic.

Reply: thank you once again to have pointed out this observation. As you know, our research team on Fatty Liver Disease in children is dynamic and never static, so that we are often obliged to write Review-Articles to better spread the new findings in this field. In fact, this review submitted to BMC Medicine differs from the one published in 2012, especially because it presents a significant advance in how to diagnose and how to histologically score pediatric NAFLD and NASH. We have presented for the first time our new histological score, that is specific for pediatric Fatty Liver and that takes into account portal inflammation. Please see page 5 and 6 (“Scoring System” paragraph).

The above mentioned review has now been cited.

3) Reviewer 1- I would only suggest that the authors would expand a little further on Public Health Prevention strategies to prevent the disease. In fact the authors only mention it briefly in the last paragraph.

Reply: thank you very much for this comment. As suggested, we have expanded further on Public Health Prevention strategies (see page 14, paragraph “Prevention and Treatment”).

4) Reviewer 2- Well written, comprehensive review that will serve the field

Reply: thank you very much for this comment.