Author's response to reviews

Title: Parent-Rated Behavior Problems Associated with Overweight After Controlling for Sleep Disordered Breathing: A Prospective Study

Authors:

Shelagh A Mulvaney (shelagh.mulvaney@vanderbilt.edu)
Kristine L Kaemingk (Kaemingk@peds.arizona.edu)
James L Goodwin (jamiegg@arc.arizona.edu)
Stuart F Quan (squan@arc.arizona.edu)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
We thank Dr. Owens, Verhaaren and Kemper for their helpful comments. In response to their concerns, we have revised the manuscript as follows.

Response to Reviewers

Reviewer Owens: No Revisions

Reviewer Verhaaren: Two minor revisions

#1. “A shortcoming in the population description is the lack of familial data, both on parents’ weights and on nutritional habits within the family. It is worth mentioning.”

We agree with this suggestion and have added the following additional wording that indicates that more familial obesity and nutrition data would have been helpful in this paper.

“Finally, more data on these families would have been helpful to determine if familial nutrition habits, parental obesity, and/or socioeconomic status related to behavior problems.”

#2. “I would probably suggest to stress the multifactorial difficulty of whatever study in obesity even somewhat stronger.”

We have also inserted the following additional sentence in the discussion to emphasize our previous point that obesity is a multifactorially-determined problem.

“The current cross-sectional study allows limited causal inference. As Freidman and Brownell [41] have emphasized in adults, many important questions about etiology and treatment may only be answered through longitudinal research that allows for an examination of multiple risk factors.”

Reviewer Kemper: Several minor revisions

#1. “In abstract add to the first paragraph that SDB is taken into consideration and include in conclusion the role of SDB.”

We have added that we present data before and after taking SDB into account within the abstract. The last sentence of the abstract introduction is now as follows.

“The goal of this study was to determine the nature and prevalence of behavior problems for overweight school-aged children versus normal weight peers before and after controlling for the effect of sleep disordered breathing.”

In addition, we have revised the abstract conclusion as follows.

“After controlling for the effect of sleep disordered breathing, behaviors such as withdrawal and social problems, are common in overweight children and need to
be taken into account in the design of interventions and services as they may act to moderate the efficacy of behavioral treatments.”

#2. “In discussion: the first sentence can be deleted”

We have deleted the first sentence of the discussion.

#3. “I miss a conclusion at the end (can be the same as in abstract)”

We have added the following concluding sentence at the end of the discussion section.

“In conclusion, after controlling for the effect of sleep disordered breathing, behaviors, such as withdrawal and social problems, are common in overweight children and should be considered in the design of interventions and services as they may act to moderate the efficacy of behavioral treatments for obesity.”

#4. “Is Freidman (ref 41) correct?”

Friedman et al is correct.

#5. Explain in table 2 RDI

We have added the explanation for the abbreviation RDI at the bottom of Table 2.

#6. “do the significant numbers in bold in table 3 and 4 and change withdraw in withdrawl in table 4.”

We changed significant Odds Ratios to bolded text in the tables. We left “withdrawl” on the table because that is the correct name of the scale. When discussed in the text as a behavior or process, it is correctly referred to as “withdrawal”.
