Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of metabolic syndrome in Murcia Region, a southern European Mediterranean area with low cardiovascular risk and high obesity

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Author's response to reviews:

We should like to thank both the editor and the reviewers for their invaluable comments and suggestions, which have helped us improve our manuscript. The revised version of the manuscript, including all the corrections and editor's and reviewers' suggestions, has now been carefully revised by a native English-speaking professional.

We have added the name of the Ethics Committee that approved the study, and have cited the paper published in 2010 (http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/10/640)

Reviewer Bjørn Hildrum
1. More information on the study design has now been included. For appointment purposes, subjects were contacted by telephone or home visit, and the questionnaire was administered by trained interviewers at a primary health care centre.
2. The Joint Interim Statement (JIS) reference has been included in the Background section, and prevalence of MS according to the JIS definition with the low waist-circumference cut-off has been added, since the JIS high cut-off definition is identical to the revised NCEP-ATPIII definition already presented.
3. The suggested comment has now been included.
4. Height, weight, BMI, total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol have been removed from the tables.
5. Indeed, there was a mistake in the figure and this has now been corrected: 7% and 12% are the proportions of women engaging in 3.5 hours of weekly physical exercise and had been included in a former version of the manuscript. Finally, however, we decided to show only the figures for 2.5 hours of weekly physical exercise.
6. As suggested, the sentence has now been replaced.

Reviewer Alaa Alkerwi

1. Statistical testing has now been included. Significant differences (Wald test) are highlighted in Figure 2.
2. These are the most recent data on cardiovascular risk factors available in our region. Needless to say, it would be desirable for a new survey to be conducted, which would allow us to assess trends in cardiovascular risk factors. In the meantime, however, we feel that the information presented using the most recent data is of value.
3. The Joint Interim Statement/ORISCAV-LUX study reference has now been included. Prevalence of MS according to JIS94/80 was also calculated and included in Table 1 and Figure 1.
4. Indeed, the most recent NCEP ATPIII definition was used, i.e., the revised NCEP ATPIII of 2005. The abbreviation "NCEP" has been changed to R-ATPIII.
5. More information on the study design has now been included.
6. We have endeavoured to improve the Discussion section by addressing the issues suggested.