Author's response to reviews

Title: Sedentary behaviours and its association with bone mass in adolescents: the HELENA cross-sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor
Enclosed you will find a revision of our manuscript “Sedentary behaviours and its association with bone mass in adolescents: the HELENA cross-sectional study”. We would like to thank the reviewers for their thoughtful and constructive comments. We have considered all of the suggestions and have incorporated them into the revised manuscript. We believe our manuscript is stronger as a result of these modifications. An itemized point-by-point response to the reviewers’ comments is presented below. This manuscript contains material that is original and not previously published in text or on the Internet, nor is it being considered elsewhere until a decision is made as to its acceptability by the BMC Public Health Editorial Review Board.

REVIEWER: MAIRENA SANCHEZ-LOPEZ

Reviewer's report:
The corrections were well done. Results are presented much more cleanly and coherently.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS
Comment 1. In the figure 1 the following paragraph is repeated (above and below of the figure):
“ab Common superscripts indicate a significant difference (p< 0.05)
In black columns: Active girls.
In grey columns: Rest of girls”
Answer 1. Thanks for the comment. We included the caption of the figure both in the figure and at the end of the manuscript file. We have deleted it from the manuscript file and maintained only in the figure.
Comment 2. And reference 19 is incomplete. Thank you to the authors.
Answer 2. Thanks for catching this. Corrected.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.

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**REVIEWER: JANET SHAW**

**Reviewer's report:**

**Minor Essential Revisions**

Comment 1. When referring to low BMC, it seems most appropriate to use \( \geq 1 \) SD below the mean since it's unlikely that all participants with low BMC were exactly at 1SD below the mean. Or perhaps use "at least 1 SD below the mean."

**Answer 1.** Thanks for the comment. We have used “at least 1SD below the mean” throughout the manuscript as well as the figure.

Comment 2. Line 78: When referring to PA guidelines for children and adolescents, mention somewhere in this section that 60 minutes refers to daily activity or at least 60 minutes per day.

**Answer 2.** Done. Thanks.

**Discretionary Revisions**

The following are editorial recommendations.

Comment 1. Line 67: "determines" should be "determine"

**Answer 1.** Corrected

Comment 2. Line 85: remove the apostrophe (,)

**Answer 2.** Corrected

Comment 3. Line 93: remove "the"

**Answer 3.** Corrected

Comment 4. Line 94: add "and lean mass as confounders"

**Answer 4.** Corrected

Comment 5. Line 116: remove "that"

**Answer 5.** Corrected
Comment 6. Lines 245-6: Suggest alternate wording such as "Despite the disappearance of significant differences....." and on Line 247: change "to" to "toward"
Answer 6. Corrected

Comment 7. Line 287: Change "strong" to "strongly"
Answer 7. Corrected

Comment 8. Line 310: Change "to a worse" to "to poor"
Answer 8. Corrected

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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.