Author's response to reviews

Title: Correlation between metabolic syndrome and knee osteoarthritis; data from the Korean National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES)

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

Thank you for the opportunity to revise and re-resubmit our paper, entitled “Relationship between metabolic syndrome and knee osteoarthritis: data from the Korean National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES),” to BMC Public Health. We would deeply appreciate it if you would consider our responses to the reviewer’s comments and our revised manuscript for publication. We carefully considered the reviewer’s new recommendations and tried our best to make any necessary corrections.

We tried to focused more on the relationship between WC and knee OA in female subjects as the reviewer recommended and tried as well to correct linguistic and grammar mistakes under the supervision of a professional English editor.

All of the authors agreed to the changes and approved the revised manuscript. We look forward to constructive responses from you and your esteemed journal. Thank you again for allowing us to resubmit our manuscript.

Sincerely,

Kwan Kyu Park,
Corresponding author.

<Response to the Reviewer’s Comments>
The revised manuscript is improved.
The main finding of OA being associated with WC in females should not be presented in the discussion and conclusions to be perceived as an understatement (“except for WC…, neither MetS, nor any parameters thereof…”). The implications of central obesity-related factors, rather than insulin resistance-related variables, should be better focused upon. Such discordance has been previously reported (Onat A, et al. Metabolism 2006; 55:445).

A few linguistic and grammar mistakes still persist.

→ Thank you for the comments. We emphasized the relationship between WC and knee OA in female patients as the reviewer recommended as follows:

- In the Abstract and Conclusion: “We found that WC was associated with knee OA in female subjects, but neither MetS nor any parameters thereof were shown to be associated with knee OA in the Korean subjects of this study”

- In the Discussion: “Knee OA is thought to be associated with multifactorial causes [1]. There is a general consensus that knee OA is strongly associated with obesity. It has been reported that subjects with BMI >30 kg/m² show a 4.2–6.8 times higher incidence of knee OA than control subjects [31, 32]. In the current study, we also found that WC in female subjects was significantly related to knee OA. The reason for this is uncertain, but the prevalence of knee OA is known to be significantly higher in female subjects in Asian populations, [23, 27, 33, 34] which was confirmed in this study as well.”

We also mentioned the discordance between inflammation and MetS as the reviewer recommended and added the citation as follows:

- In discussion: “However, we found no significant correlations between the parameters of MetS, except for WC in female subjects, and knee OA in the current study. This may implicate that inflammatory pathways might not be correlated with knee OA; moreover, Onat et al. reported that there is discordance between insulin resistance and MetS [38].”

Finally, we also corrected our linguistic and grammar mistakes under the supervision of a professional English editor.

Thank you again for your constructive comments.