Author's response to reviews

Title: A public health threat in Hungary; Obesity, 2013

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Version: 2
Date: 19 June 2014

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Firstly, we have to thank to the reviewers, for their voluntary and selfless work and valuable advices. Changes in the Ms were marked with yellow.

The main goal of our study was to provide real and up to date facts about the recent prevalence of obesity in Hungary. There are only limited numbers of countries where nationwide measurements are continuously performed. The sources of WHO database are not comparable; some (larger) countries provide (almost) representative data, while others present only local surveys. Nationwide evaluations require financial resources, provided by governments or scientific/funding bodies. But they are too few. In most countries, without support, only local and not representative evaluations and measurements were performed. The situation in Hungary is the same. We also did not get support for a population survey; therefore the invitation of enthusiastic GPs seemed the proper solution. Our survey has much strength:

- inclusion of younger generation (it was facilitated), beside other visitors of GP surgeries,
- measurements of waist-circumference (previously there were no wc data from Hungary),
- smaller age groups (10y) were formed,
- high population-coverage (0.53%). [same coverage means in the UK cca. 300,000, in the USA 1.5 Million persons],
- geographical representation was almost complete,
- representativeness regarding educational level was very close to the national data (0-6%, depending from the grades),
- incidences of the registered morbidities (in the survey and in the Census of 2011) were almost the same in the different age groups (differences were only 3-6%).

Beside GP surgeries, other public opportunities for inclusion were also facilitated to reach younger persons. All of the limitations were described and discussed properly.

In the INTRODUCTION we described the previous Hungarian surveys (their often different methods and the main findings) because we focused only to Hungary. In the DISCUSSION we made some (not wide-range) comparison to the neighboring countries. There are enormous amount of publication about obesity, we did not want to repeat them instead of providing new data. We wanted to spare with spaces and with the time of readers as well, therefore only limited number of studies were included and for the same reason, we did not emphasize the importance of obesity, supposing that all of the readers are informed in this topic, which is mainly medical and not a public health issue.

The AIM of the study was clearly described, CONCLUSIONS were summarized and English style was revised.

We know that our method might be criticized although recently only these data are available from Hungary and are ready for comparison to other countries, where and when published.