Author's response to reviews

Title: Parameters of lung inflammation in asthmatic as compared to healthy children in a contaminated city.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Christopher Acuña
Journal Editorial Office
BioMed Central

I appreciate your useful commentaries and add the fourth version of the following manuscript:

MS: 3074480271034563
Research article
Parameters of lung inflammation in asthmatic as compared to healthy children in a contaminated city.
BMC Pulmonary Medicine (Section: Epidemiology and public health)

Editor's Comments:

1) The title of the manuscript should be changed to: lung inflammation in asthmatic as compared to healthy children in a contaminated city as the study -as discussed- does not provide direct evidence to suggest that healthy children in a contaminated city have lung inflammation. a control group of healthy children in a less-contaminated city would be required not historical published controls.

R= We agree with this comment because we do not have parallel information about this parameters in children from a less contaminated city. Thus, we suggest the following title: Parameters of lung inflammation in asthmatic as compared to healthy children in a contaminated city.

2) The fev1/fvc % does not seem right, for asthma group it can be estimated to be around 0.77 (mean fev1/mean fvc for that group is 1.7/2.2) and for the healthy group 0.80 (1.6/2.0). I understand these numbers are only approximate.

R= We calculated again FEV1/FVC% values (88.9 ± 1.2 and 89.1 ± 1.1 for asthmatics and non-asthmatics, respectively) according to Miller MR, et al. Series ATS / ERS Task Force: standardization of lung function testing. Eur Res J 2005; 26:319-338. It represents the percentage of predicted FEV1/FVC%.
We add an example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>FVC</th>
<th>FEV1</th>
<th>FEV1/FVC</th>
<th>FEV1/FVC%</th>
<th>Predicted</th>
<th>%Predicted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.858</td>
<td>2.498</td>
<td>0.8740</td>
<td>87.4</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>109.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sincerely yours

Benigno Linares