Author's response to reviews

Title: Epigenetics modifications and Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Obstructive Sleep Apnea: The EPIOSA study

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Author's response to reviews:

Dr. Catia Cornacchia,

Executive Editor

BMC Pulmonary Medicine.

Attached, please, find our manuscript entitled “Epigenetics modifications and Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Obstructive Sleep Apnea: The EPIOSA study” that we are submitting for possible review and publication in the BMC Pulmonary Medicine Journal. This study has not yet publish any results and we have not submitted any manuscript concerning this project.

Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is highly prevalent disease all over the world. We and others have shown that OSA is associated with an increased risk of hypertension (Marin et al. JAMA 2012) and cardiovascular mortality (Marin et al. Lancet 2005). However, intermediate mechanisms that justify this high risk are unknown. We hypothesized that changes in epigenetic regulation of systemic inflammation and metabolic dysfunction in OSA, are linked to accelerated cardiovascular morbidity.
The present article describes the purpose and design of the “Epigenetics Status and Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Obstructive Sleep Apnea (EPIOSA) study”. This is an ongoing 5-yr longitudinal study with the overall aim to identify epigenetic markers associated to prevalent and progression of subclinical atherosclerosis in individuals with OSA, as well as biomarkers that may serve as surrogate end-points.

Our manuscript has not been published previously and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. None of the authors receive direct financial support or have financial interests relevant to the subject of the present investigation.

We are very grateful for the time and effort that you, your associate editors and the reviewers will devote to our manuscript.

With best regards,

José M. Marin, M.D.
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Caroline Zapanta
Journal Editorial Office
BioMed Central

Dear Ms Zapanta,

Point-by-Point description of changes made.

1. Cover Letter.

I can confirm that I intend to submit the manuscript to BMC Pulmonary Medicine and that our manuscript is not considered elsewhere. This is appropriately stated in the new cover letter (1st paragraph)

2. Acknowledgements. We included in the new version the thanks after obtaining permission.

3. The sample size is now indicated as requested.

4. Ethics and funding proofs.

As requested we forward copies of all ethical approvals and funding approvals to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com. I also accompanied an appropriate
translated version.

The study awarded grants from the Spanish Government and The Spanish and Aragon scientific respiratory societies. The study protocol has undergone peer-review by the all the three funding body.

This study is “ongoing”. We indicate this status in the cover letter (3th paragraph).

This study has not yet publish any results and we have no submitted any manuscript concerning this project. We included this statement in the new cover letter (see paragraph one).

5. Line numbering.

We now included line and page numbers in the main text file.

I hope these changes you request to us.

With Best regards

Dr. Jose M. Marin