Author's response to reviews

Title: Comparison of plasma endothelin levels between osteoporotic, osteopenic and normal subjects: a research article.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Peter Newmark,
The Editor-in-chief, **BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders**, 
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Kindly Attention of Peter Newmark,
The Editor-in-chief, **BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders**, 

We revised our manuscript entitled “Comparison of plasma endothelin levels between osteoporotic, osteopenic and normal subjects: a research article.” according to reviewers’ suggestions.

The changes that we made and the answers to the reviewers’ questions are explained in the following part of this letter.

The revised manuscript was read and approved by all authors.

Sincerely yours,

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Reviewer 1 (Miryoung L Lee)

Comment: The study design of this manuscript is cross-sectional. Thus, authors need to rewrite The study was performed prospectively on second paragraph, page 5.

Response: The statement was changed as “The study was performed cross-sectionally.” on the second paragraph, page 5 of the revised manuscript.

Comment: Based on the results (section: levels according to gender) and figure 1, however, it looked like that they used two-way ANOVA incorporating two independent variables (osteoporotic status and sex), and found significant interaction effects between osteoporotic status and sex on the levels of plasma endothelin. Was there any significant sex difference on the levels of plasma endothelin independent of osteoporotic status? Please clarify the information.

Response: Recommended changes were made in the data analysis section. One way ANOVA was changed as two-way ANOVA. And it was clarified that “Independent of osteoporotic status mean ET level was significantly higher in men (130.1±58.7 pg/ml) than women (91.5±50.2 pg/ml). (p<0.05)” in the levels according to gender part of result section.
Reviewer 2 (Peter Vestergaard)

**Comment:** The authors have responded sufficiently to most points raised. However I am still concerned by the levels of ET measured by the assay used.

Have the authors tried to do a re-run and a check of the assay, or perhaps a cross-calibration with another lab to ensure the quality of the measurements?

**Response:**

According to reviewer’s suggestion we requested from the laboratory to re-run the assay and they accepted to do but the results of the second assay revealed almost similar results.