Author's response to reviews

Title: The association of anthropometry indices with gout in Taiwanese men

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

Enclosed is the revised manuscript entitled “The association of anthropometry indices with gout in Taiwanese men”. We have adopted essentially all the suggestions made by you and reviewers in the revision.

Responses to comments by you and the reviewers are as followings:

Reviewer 1: Abdul Basit

1. Written English of the manuscript needs improvement.

   Now our manuscript is under the language correction by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise.

2. Do not begin with numbers after full stop; instead describe the numbers in words at the start of sentences.

   We had substituted the numerals at the start of sentences for the numbers in words in the manuscript. (Page 2, Line 36)

3. Please explain the rationale of using the old data collected between 1993-1996. Overall as a result of modernization and life style changes globally, the anthropometric variables of the studied population in the geographical location of Taiwan may have changed which undermines the importance of the study.

   When we conducted the study, the late data collected between 2005 and 2008 were not released for public researches. This study was the first to raise the profile of the association of anthropometry indices with gout by nationwide survey in Taiwan. As a result of modernization and life style changes globally, the anthropometric variables of the studied population in Taiwan may have changed. This study could be established as a reference or model to which future studies could compare. Because the issue is important and interesting, we will apply for the late data (NAHSIT 2005-2008) and would like to submit our results to BMC endocrine disorder in the future. (Page 12, Line 207-216)

4. Title: Title of the study needs modification according to the aims of the study as the aim of the study was to examine the association of anthropometry indices with gout rather than the Waist to Height Ratio.
We had substituted the title, Waist to Height Ratio, a Simple and Practical Index for Gout in Taiwanese Men, for “The association of anthropometry indices with gout in Taiwanese men.” (Page 1, Line1)

5. Discussion: First paragraph of discussion “Overweight and obesity are epidemic………higher risk of all cause and cardiovascular mortality” should be incorporated in the introduction section.

We had incorporated first paragraph of discussion in the introduction. (Page 4, line 65-70)

6. Conclusion: Numbers should not be used in conclusion.

We had rewritten the conclusion. (Page 12, line 218-223)

Reviewer 2: Musarrat Riaz

1. The study was based on the data collected during 1993-96. Why so much delay in interpretation and submission of results? Please discuss whether it affects the overall interpretation of results in 2013.

When we conducted the study, the late data collected between 2005 and 2008 were not released for public researches. This study was the first to raise the profile of the association of anthropometry indices with gout by nationwide survey in Taiwan. As a result of modernization and life style changes globally, the anthropometric variables of the studied population in Taiwan may have changed. This study could be established as a reference or model to which future studies could compare. Because the issue is important and interesting, we will apply for the late data (NAHSIT 2005-2008) and would like to submit our results to BMC endocrine disorder in the future. (Page 12, Line 207-216)

2. The diagnosis of gout is based on self reported diagnosis by patients without any confirmatory tests which might be biased. Please discuss.
There might be bias against the diagnosis of gout based on self reported diagnosis by patients. All instruments of the NAHSIT 1993-1996 were evaluated for validity and reliability in 3 pilot studies conducted from January to June in 1993.\textsuperscript{1} Gout is often defined by self-report in epidemiologic studies. Previous population-based cohort study suggested that the self-report of physician diagnosed gout has good reliability and sensitivity and is appropriate for epidemiologic studies.\textsuperscript{2} We discussed the bias in our discussion. (Page 5, Line 90-92; Page 12, Line 210-216)


3. Results are presented in a way which might not be very easy to understand for general readership.

We had made some changes for general readership. (Page 8, Line 144-168)

4. Written English needs to be improved.

Now our manuscript is under the language correction by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise.

5. Some references are not standardized (5,17,23,24,26,28). After 6 authors et al is used.

We had standardized our reference and add \textit{et al} after 6 authors (5, 6, 7, 13, 19, 24, 25, 27, 29, 33).

Reviewer 3: Asher Fawwad
1. Describe the numbers in words at the beginning of sentences.

We had described the numbers in words at the beginning of sentences. (Page 2, Line 36)

2. Written English of the article needs improvement. There are typing errors and grammatical mistakes.

Now our manuscript is under the language correction by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise.

3. Please explain the basis of using the old data collected between 1993-1996.

When we conducted the study, the late data collected between 2005 and 2008 were not released for public researches. This study was the first to raise the profile of the association of anthropometry indices with gout by nationwide survey in Taiwan. As a result of modernization and life style changes globally, the anthropometric variables of the studied population in Taiwan may have changed. This study could be established as a reference or model to which future studies could compare. Because the issue is important and interesting, we will apply for the late data (NAHSIT 2005-2008) and would like to submit our results to BMC endocrine disorder in the future. (Page 12, Line 207-216)

4. Title of the study needs to be modified considering the objective of the study.

We had substituted the title, Waist to Height Ratio, a Simple and Practical Index for Gout in Taiwanese Men, for “The association of anthropometry indices with gout in Taiwanese men.” (Page 1, Line 1)

We thank the valuable suggestions made by you and reviewers.

Sincerely,
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