Author's response to reviews

Title: Subject: Menstruation associated hypocalcemic symptoms and serum total calcium in patients with idiopathic hypoparathyroidism

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To

Professor Zukeyha Karaca
Editor
BMC Endocrine Disorder
(Attention Ms April Rada)

Dated: 7-3-2014

Subject: Revised Manuscript # MS: 8387246031163960 “Menstruation associated hypocalcemic symptoms and serum total calcium in patients with idiopathic hypoparathyroidism”

Sir,

Thank you for sending the comments of the Reviewers and asking us to revise the manuscript. We have gone through the comments carefully and have incorporated all the suggestions in the revised manuscript. Following are the modifications/clarifications:

Editorial Requirements:
* Name of ethics committee: Please update your ethics statement to include the name of the ethics committee that approved your study.
   Answer: The study was approved by the Ethics committee of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. This has now been included in the revised manuscript on page 5, third para.

Answer to the comments of Referee 1

Comment 1: The short title in my view does not summarise the work carried out and may be suitably modified.
Answer 1: The short title has now been modified as “Hypocalcemic symptoms, SiCa+ and menses in IHP”
Comment 2: Data in Table 3 does not add any additional information and may therefore be deleted.
Answer 2: Data shown in the table 3 has not been given in the text of the manuscript. For the sake of clarity to the readers we would prefer to retain this table in the revised manuscript.

Comment 3 Details covered in table 1 are also covered in the text of the manuscript and can therefore be deleted without loss of information.
Answer 3: As per the suggestion Table 1 has been deleted.
Comment 4 There are typographical errors in the manuscript which may be corrected and the
Answer 4: We have carefully gone through the manuscript and have corrected the
typographical errors in the revised manuscript.

**Comment 5: The manuscript needs to be shortened**

**Answer 5:** The manuscript has been shortened by 450 words (from 2000 to 1652) without loss of information. Table 1 has also been deleted in the revised manuscript.

**Answer to the comments of Referee 2**

We are sincerely thankful to the reviewer for checking our manuscript minutely and suggesting us several important corrections. We feel his suggestion has improved our manuscript and added value to it.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

**Question 1:** In Discussion, first paragraph, “APECED”. Comment: what is APECED?

**Answer 1:** Full form of ‘APECED’ i.e. Autoimmune polyendocrinopathy-candidiasis-ectodermal dystrophy has now been given in the revised discussion (page 7 last line and page 8, first line).

**Question 2:** In Discussion, first paragraph, “suggested PMS as the possible explanation for these symptoms”. Comment: for which symptoms?

**Answer 2:** We intended ‘hyocalcemic symptoms’. The sentence has now been made more clear (please see page 8, line 6).

**Minor Essential Revisions**

**Comment 1:** In Abstract--Background, the abbreviation for “idiopathic hypoparathyroidism” should be“IHP”.

**Answer 1:** “idiopathic hypoparathyroidism” has been abbreviated as IHP

**Comment 2:** In Abstract--Methods, “Twelve consenting patients and eight controls recorded symptoms suggestive of hypocalcemia and premenstrual syndrome over two consecutive menstrual cycles”. Comment: the sentence is misleading, and the readers may think that there were 12

**Answer 2:** We agree with the reviewer and have made the above expression more clear in the abstract.

**Comment 3:** In Abstract--Methods, “premenstrual syndrome” should be added its abbreviation “PMS” here rather than in Methods, fifth paragraph.

**Answer 3:** The abbreviation “PMS” has been added in the Abstract.

**Comment 4:** In Abstract--Methods, “intact parathormone” should be added its abbreviation.

**Answer 4:** The abbreviation “iPTH” has now been added with intact parathormone.

**Comment 5:** In Abstract--Results, the intact parathormone was measured, but it was not stated in Abstract--Methods.

**Answer 5:** We had mentioned measurement of intact parathormone in the original manuscript in the ‘methods’ of the abstract. Now it has been made more clear.

**Comment 6:** In Abstract--Conclusion, “be reassured about lack of their association with hypocalcemia” would be better if it changes to “be reassured about their lack of association with hypocalcemia” as well as in Conclusion.
Answer 6: The sentence has been modified as per the suggestion of the referee.

Comment 7: In Background, first paragraph, “It was also observed that a subset of the female patients experience hypocalcemic symptoms in the peri-menstrual phase”. Comment: wrong tense.
Answer 7: The sentence has been corrected as “It was also observed that a subset of the patients complained of hypocalcemic symptoms in the perimenstrual phase”.

Comment 8: In Background, second paragraph, “we serially monitored, serum ionized calcium (SiCa++), total calcium and intact PTH”. Comment: the “,” is not necessary and the SiCa++ is used as the abbreviation for serum ionized calcium, so there is no need to use the term “serum ionized calcium”again which is also seen in Methods, third paragraph.
Answer 8: The comma in the mention sentence has been deleted. We have also incorporated the abbreviation SiCa++ for serum ionized calcium in background and at all other necessary places in the revised manuscript.

Comment 9: In Methods, second paragraph, “(e) one-to three days prior”. Comment: wrong use.
Answer 9: ‘one-to three days prior’ has been corrected as ‘1-3 days prior’

Comment 10: In Methods, fourth paragraph, “free of cost”. Comment: wrong use.
Answer 10: Following referee’s suggestion, we have now preferred to delete the expression “free of cost” from the sentence in the revised manuscript (please see page 4, last line)

Comment 11: In Methods, fourth paragraph, “for travel to and fro from the hospital”. Comment: wrong spelling.
Answer 11: The sentence has been appropriately modified in the revised manuscript as ‘Facility for travel was also provided for repeated hospital visits during the study for travel’ (please see page 5, line 1-2).

Comment 12 In Methods, fourth paragraph, “all the patients and controls. . ”. Comment: double “.”.
Answer 12: The extra full stop has been deleted.

Comment 13 In Methods, fifth paragraph, “Assessment of premenstrual syndrome and tracking of hypocalcemic symptoms”. Comment: no need for the underling.
Answer 13: The underlining of the above sentence has been removed.

Comment 14: In Methods, fifth paragraph, “The questionnaire was translated in the native Hindi language by the authors”. Comment: wrong preposition.
Answer 14: The sentence has been corrected as “The questionnaire was translated to the native Hindi language by the authors” in the revised manuscript on page 5, para 2, line 5.

Comment 15: In Methods, fifth paragraph, “3•5–5•0%”. Comment: wrong symbol.
Answer 15: We agree with the reviewer and have appropriately corrected the expression.

Comment 16: In Discussion, first paragraph, “Grahm et al”. Comment: Graham et al.
Answer 16: The typographical mistake in the spelling of ‘Graham’ is now corrected.

Comment 17: In Discussion, first paragraph, “Mallette LE, reported increased muscle stiffness”. Comment: no need for the “;”.
Answer 17: The “,” has been removed.

Comment 18: In Discussion, third paragraph, “Further there were no significant”. Comment: further more.
Answer 18: Further has been changed to ‘Futher more’ as per the suggestion.

Comment 19: In Discussion, fourth paragraph, “The pathophysiology of menstruation associated hypocalcemic symptoms in absence of their association with hypocalcemia and PMS as observed in the present study is not clear.” Comment: the subject is too long.
Answer 19: The sentence has been appropriately modified and expressed more clearly (please see page 9, line 1-3)

Comment 20: In Discussion, fourth paragraph, “In a recent study from our center,...on detailed examination (12)”. Comment: In a recent study from our center,...on detailed examination [12].
Answer 20: (12) has been changed to [12] as per the requirement

Comment 21 and 22: “Conclusion, Abbreviations, Competing interests, Financial and non financial competing interests, Authors’ Contributions”. Comment: typographical errors. Answer: The typographical errors have now been corrected in the revised manuscript.

Comment 22: In Authors’ Contributions, “SS and RG the authors are ....”. Comment: double subject.
Answer 22: The words “RG and SS” has now been deleted.

Comment 23: In Authors’ Contributions, “RG has been managed......since 1998. ” Comment: RG has been managing......since 1998.
Answer 23: The sentence has been corrected and written as “RG has been managing…..since 1998”.

Comment 24: In Table 1, there are two “cycle 1”, and one of them should be “cycle 2”.
Answer 24: We agree that there should have been cycle 1 and cycle 2. However, following suggestion of the reviewer (and also by reviewer 1), Table 1 has now been deleted in the revised manuscript.

Comment 25: All the tables are not the standard three-line tables, and it seems the Table 1 and Figure 1 are not necessary since they are described thoroughly in the article.
Answer 25: As mentioned above Table 1 has deleted. For the sake of clarity to the readers about the number of subjects included and then enrolled for prospective monitoring of the hypocalcemic symptoms and serum ionized calcium during two cycles, we would prefer to retain the Figure 1 in the revised manuscript. However, we leave it to the discretion of the Editors.

Comment 26: In Figure 1, the Hypocalcemic Symptoms Absent (n=12). Comment: in the article the number was 14, please check.
Answer 26: The typographical error has now been corrected in the figure to show that there were 14 subjects without hypocalcemic symptoms
Comment 27: References. Comment: typographical errors.
Answer 27: The references have been corrected and now arranged as per the requirement.

We hope the modified manuscript would meet the requirements. Please do let us know if there are further clarifications required.
Thanking You,
Yours Sincerely

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