Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 27 February 2014

Reviewer: Wenxun Wu

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. In Discussion, first paragraph, “APECED”. Comment: what is APECED?
2. In Discussion, first paragraph, “suggested PMS as the possible explanation for these symptoms”. Comment: for which symptoms?

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In Abstract--Background, the abbreviation for “idiopathic hypoparathyroidism” should be “IHP”.
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
3. In Abstract--Methods, “premenstrual syndrome” should be added its abbreviation “PMS” here rather than in Methods, fifth paragraph.
4. In Abstract--Methods, “intact paratharmone” should be added its abbreviation.
5. In Abstract--Results, the intact paratharmone was measured, but it was not stated in Abstract--Methods.
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.
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.
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 “erum ionized calcium” again which is also seen in Methods, third paragraph.
9. In Methods, second paragraph, “(e) one-to three days prior”. Comment: wrong use.
11. In Methods, fourth paragraph, “for travel to and fro from the hospital”.

Comment: wrong spelling.
12. In Methods, fourth paragraph, “all the patients and controls.". Comment: double "..".
14. In Methods, fifth paragraph, “The questionnaire was translated in the native Hindi language by the authors”. Comment: wrong preposition.
15. In Methods, fifth paragraph, “3.5–5.0%”. Comment: wrong symbol.
17. In Discussion, first paragraph, “Mallette LE, reported increased muscle stiffness”. Comment: no need for the ",”.
18. In Discussion, third paragraph, “Further there were no significant”. Comment: further more.
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.
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].
21. “Conclusion, Abbreviations, Competing interests, Financial and non financial competing interests, Authors’ Contributions”. Comment: typographical errors.
22. In Authors’ Contributions, “SS and RG the authors are ....”. Comment: double subject.
23. In Authors’ Contributions, “RG has been managed......since 1998. ” Comment: RG has been managing......since 1998.
24. In Table 1, there are two “cycle 1”, and one of them should be “cycle 2”.
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.
26. In Figure 1, the Hypocalcemic Symptoms Absent (n=12). Comment: in the article the number was 14, please check.

Discretionary Revisions
None.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests