Author's response to reviews

Title: Waist circumference and insulin resistance: a cross-sectional study of Japanese men

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Thank you very much for your patient consideration to the above-referenced manuscript. We again revised the manuscript in response to the comments given by two reviewers. We would like to resubmit it for publication in BMC Journal. Changes were made at the following points.

**Reviewer 1: Altan Onat**

Comment 1. Authors responded to the points I raised, except expressing their opinion whether Japanese men have less confounders in the studied relationship than other ethnicities. **Reply:** In connection with the revision in response to comment 2, we added a sentence to the effect that Japanese men are unlikely to have less confounders compared with other ethnicities (the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 9).

Comment 2. Discordance between IR and metabolic syndrome has been reported in the majority of involved patients among Americans and Turks (overviewed in Onat A et al. Metabolism 2006; 55:445). It might therefore be of value to learn whether a much smaller discordance (i.e. a greater overlapping) exists between abdominal obesity (#85 cm) and IR (#2.0) among Japanese men. Such information may shed light to the ethnic variability in the link between abdominal obesity and IR. **Reply:** We added the proportion of discordance between abdominal obesity and insulin resistance, and discussed the reported discordance between metabolic syndrome and insulin resistance by referring to the recommended reference (lines 15-18 on page 9; reference 26).

**Reviewer 2: Patrice Brassard**

Comment 1. In the methods section, the sentence "Women, particularly middle-aged ones, are very few in the SDF" should be inserted and discussed in the limitations and not in the methods. **Reply:** We made a change as suggested, stating that this was a limitation (lines 7-8 from the bottom on page 10).

Comment 2. In the results section, the authors should avoid adjectives and need to stay objective when reporting their results. Specifically, the authors should remove "fairly large" in the second paragraph of the results section. **Reply:** The words "fairly large" were deleted (the second paragraph of the Results on page 7).

Comment 3. In the last paragraph of page 9, I would suggest replacing "advantage" by "strength". **Reply:** A change was done as suggested (line 5 on page 10).
We hope that we responded to each comment satisfactorily to improve the manuscript. We should appreciate your consideration in advance once again.

Best wishes,

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