Author's response to reviews

Title: Family history of diabetes and clinical characteristics in Greek subjects with type 2 diabetes

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Reviewer # 1 (Mark McLean)

The authors have limited their scope and research focus to simply report descriptive data regarding family history and disease characteristics. This has clarified the intent of the study - but it is disappointing that they have not used the opportunity to further explore their data relating to the mechanism of diabetes transmission between generations.

They have made the requested superficial alterations to the manuscript and have corrected the language errors. These were the minimum changes needed to bring the MS to publication quality.

As it is mentioned in the manuscript we conducted a retrospective study in order to estimate the prevalence of familial history of type 2 diabetes mellitus in Greek patients, and to evaluate its potential effect on the patient’s metabolic control and the presence of diabetic complications. Therefore, further analysis of the available data regarding the potential mechanisms of diabetes transmission between generations could not be done, despite its great interest. A lot of experimental and epidemiological studies in different population have tried to give answers to the above matter, as it is mentioned to the discussion section of the manuscript. Indeed, it would be very interesting to further evaluate the impact of diabetes among the generations. However, larger, prospective studies are needed.

2nd Reviewer (Samy HADJADJ)

The authors made substantial modifications to the manuscript. It is probably acceptable for publication. The last point to address is the statistical analyses: due to the familial structure of the study, the use of "non-classical statistics" such as "GEE" should be considered. The opinion of an expert in statistics should be asked for. The manuscript is otherwise suitable for publication.

The primary aim of our study was to estimate the prevalence of familial history of type 2 diabetes mellitus in Greek patients. A secondary objective was to evaluate the potential effect of familial history on the patient’s metabolic control and the presence of diabetic complications. Therefore, we used descriptive statistics for the analysis of the data. According to the existing literature data, the above method has been used in other studies examining the familial history of diabetes and its impact to the metabolic control of the patients. Therefore, the use of "non-classical statistics" would not offer additional information on the analysis.