Author's response to reviews

Title: Biopsychological traits of Sasang typology based on Sasang Personality Questionnaire and Body Mass Index

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Editor-in-Chief
BM C Complementary & Alternative Medicine

Re: BioMed Central M S 7062730861193523 “Biopsychological traits of Sasang typology based on Sasang Personality Questionnaire and Body Mass Index”

Dear Sir;

Please find enclosed the manuscript which has been revised in accordance with the suggestions made by the reviewers.

The reviewers also made important suggestions for improving the manuscript, which we detail in the attached letter. Within the revised manuscript, specific changes are highlighted in yellow.

We believe that the manuscript has been substantially improved based on the valuable suggestions offered by the reviewers. We hope that this manuscript is now acceptable for publication in your journal, BMC Complementary & Alternative Medicine. The paper is 3494 words long and there are 4 tables and 2 figures.

Sincerely,

Han Chae, M D, Ph D, D iplAc.

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Division of Longevity and Biofunctional Medicine,
School of Korean Medicine, Pusan National University
The authors sincerely thank for the comments from reviewer 1 as “The study was conducted in a well-organized form and the manuscript is written in quite readable. These studies would provide a useful tool to apply personalized medical intervention” and “An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests”.

In our revised manuscript and response to the reviewers, we clarified explanations concerning issues provided by the reviewers for better understanding. We hope that such editing clarifies the value of traditional Korean Sasang typology in healing and prevention of illness.

Reviewer 1

1. In Discussion, you told that Big Little (Tae-So) comes from Confucianism and Yin-Yang comes from Daoism and Sasang is mixed with two categories, then what is the basis? I think you need to give the references for that.

→ We made some corrections and references for better understanding. The mention on Big-Little and Yin-Yang was made with previous studies on the psychological phenotypic traits of each Sasang types, and this correspondence between Extraversion and Neuroticism, and Yin-Yang and Big-Little was well described in Discussion section in details with previous studies [1-6].

So we made corrections and citations for better understanding as follows: “Extraversion and Neuroticism have also been proposed as domains explaining the psychological characteristics in Sasang typology [1-3]. The relevance of these personality factors could be understood when it is recognized that the name for the four Sasang types is a theoretical combination of two terms, Eum-Yang (Yin-Yang or Passive-Active) and Tae-So (Big-Little or Large-Small), although the name itself may not explain each Sasang types in full [4].”

2. In discussion, you told the limitations, among them, the third one is concerning for suggesting for the obesity. I think you don’t have to talk about the obesity marker or tool in this article. It is quite different topic you are handling.

→ The reason for the comments is that the Body Mass Index, which is the main measurement in this study, is also generally used for the obesity or adiposity studies. Since the authors suppose that the Tae-Eum Sasang type should not be assumed as a ‘fat type’ in a simple way, other possible or complementary measures from previous studies were provided here.

The comments are now revised as follows: “Third, BMI is a well-established index for international health studies and has shown usefulness in Sasang typology studies with Asian population [2,12,14,16,52]. However, the BMI can be used for the measure of...”
obesity or adiposity, and the epidemic of obesity in the West may make it difficult to distinguish among somatotypes because obesity will obscure differences related to constitutional typologies.”

3. Needs some language corrections before being published

→ This manuscript was written with the collaboration of two independent native English speaking researchers from the draft, who proofread the manuscript again.

OTHERS
1. Please confirm whether consent for their data to be used in your study was obtained from the participants involved, and include a statement to this effect in your manuscript. In the event that the requirement for consent was waived by your ethics committee, we would still request that a statement detailing this be included in your manuscript.

→ We now revised statement regarding informed consent as follows: “The present study used the data pertaining to Sasang type identification and intervention from the Korea Constitution Multicenter Bank (https://www.koreacms.org), which has acquired written informed consent from the participants.”