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
BMC Complementary & Alternative Medicine

Re: BioMed Central MS 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 reviewer.

The reviewer also made important suggestions for improving the manuscript, which we detail in the attached letter.

We believe that the manuscript has been substantially improved based on the valuable suggestions offered by the reviewer. We hope that this manuscript is now acceptable for publication in your journal, BMC Complementary & Alternative Medicine. The paper is 3558 words long and there are 4 tables and 2 figures.

Sincerely,

Han Chae, M D , Ph D , DiplAc.

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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 "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 reviewer for better understanding. We hope that these editing explains the value of traditional Korean Sasang typology in therapeutics and prevention of illness.

REVIEWER 1

1. You mentioned the SPQ differences and BMI statistically significant but as for the SPQ total is regarded as significantly different in total scores. In this article, you were to investigate the SPQ and BMI across age and gender, so I think it is good to show the result total, male, and female SPQ and BMI respectively in Table 4.0 of course you showed the graph in Figure 2 attached but I can't find the p value of each age group and each sex.

   → The purpose of this study was to show the SPQ and BMI score of each Sasang types as a reliable and quantitative measures, and the biopsychological traits of each Sasang types were well described in Table 4 and figure 2 with respect to the page limitation. The authors suppose the age related trends in male and female were intuitively illustrated in figure 2. As for the analysis of difference in SPQ and BMI in figure 2, we provided the analysis results as suggested by the reviewer in Results section as follows; "The SPQ score of the So-Yang type group was significantly (p<0.01) higher than that of So-Eum group except 50s, 60s and 70s of male and 70s of female, and the score of BMI in Tae-Eum group was significantly (p<0.01) higher than that of So-Eum group regardless of gender and age."

2. page 12, section 3.4 the total scores on the SPQ (you showed the mean value) and BMI (you showed mean value) of SY, TE, SE were found to be significantly different among Sasang types regardless of age and gender. In this paragraph, we need to focus on the "regardless of age and gender" that is, we can see the result the same in every age group and every gender. But it is not true as you know. The result says it's true only in total group. But classified into age group and sex, the significance looked different. Most of the readers will read your results and conclusions, in that case, they think SPQ and BMI were significantly different respectively, BMI is the another case. I think you should notice that "in total subjects" and "in 40s in SPQ" like limitation. Because, in your earlier study, SPQ total already showed different respectively. In this article you meant "across age and gender" so I guess the result has to follow the purpose.

   → The authors deleted 'regardless of age and gender' to avoid the confusion in this manuscript.

3. You mentioned Taeyang Taeum Soyang Soeum as the combination of Tae-So notions and Yin-Yang theory. But in Sasang constitutional medicine, Dr. Je-ma Lee used his notion on four
bigram (trigram) in the book of "I Ching". So it is regarded as a whole meaning not divided as two parts and two notions like Confucianism and Daoism. You used the Tae-So (Big-Little) and attributed Big-Little to Big man and Small man (in the Confucianism, it is based on the notion of Moral and philosophical way) So I think it is an equivocal meaning.

The name of each Sasang type represents its unique biopsychological features, and also incorporates the heritage of philosophy and science in the East and the West. The rationale and references for these has been described with manuscript and previous response to the reviewer's comments.

And the distinctiveness of each Sasang types were considered on page 15 as "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. [1]" The cited reference in here has already emphasized the uniqueness of the name of each Sasang types as the reviewer mentioned.

References