Author's response to reviews

Title: Association between bisphenol A exposure and body mass index in Chinese school children: A cross-sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editor:

Thank you and reviewers for the additional comments. Based on the comments we have made a new revision and marked all changes using the track changes mode. Please find our point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ comments attached.

Thanks and best regards!

Yours sincerely,
Ying Zhou.
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Reviewer: Justin Teeguarden

Answer 1: In the first version, daily intake estimates for this association were individually corrected by body weights. It is a concern that because body weight is influenced by BPA exposures, it was not appropriate to be used for the investigation of association between BPA exposures and BMI. In the revision, the daily intake estimates were not corrected by body weight and expressed as total amount of BPA intake per day (μg/day).

Answer 2: We totally agreed that not corrections for some potential confounders, such as caloric intake, t.v. watching, education and poverty level, were important limitations in this study, as BPA exposure could be a proxy for other life-style elements that control obesity. The effects of these confounders on the results were discussed in ‘Discussion’ section.

Answer 3: We totally agreed that the gap between human BPA exposure level and its effect levels from lab researches must be well considered for better understanding of association of BPA exposure with BMI. The BPA effect levels related to thyroid hormone receptors in the study conducted by Moriyama et al. have been pointed out
(See the ‘Paragraph 6’ of the ‘Discussion’ section, page 13), and the discrepancy between BPA exposure level in this study and lab studies has been discussed in ‘Discussion’ section. (See the ‘Paragraph 8’ of the ‘Discussion’ section, page 14).

**Answer 4:** These are very important comments, and we will carefully address these issues in our new study.

**Reviewer:** Elizabeth Hatch

**Answer 1:** We have cited the recent publication in JAMA on BPA and BMI in US children in our study, and corresponding content changes have made. (See the ‘Paragraph 3’ of the ‘Background’ section, page 5)