Author’s response to reviews

Title: Anthropometric, Biochemical and Clinical Assessment of Malnutrition among Egyptian Children with Chronic Liver Diseases: A Single Institutional Cross-sectional Study

Authors:

Nehal El Koofy (nehalmelkoofy@gmail.com)
Eman Moawad (Iman.moawad@kasralainy.edu.eg)
Mona Fahmy (omarnourleilo@gmail.com)
Mona Mohamed (dr.ebtelalmoawad@gmail.com)
Hany Mohamed (ebtisammoawad@gmail.com)
Ehab Eid (nourhaytham227@gmail.com)
Moushira Zaki (asmaamoawad90@gmail.com)
Rokaya El-Sayed (e.moawad@alahsahospital.com.sa)

Version: 2 Date: 29 Nov 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor and Reviewers,

I am pleased to resubmit for publication of the revised version of BMGE-D-18-00788, entitled “Anthropometric, Biochemical and Clinical Assessment of Malnutrition among Egyptian Children with Chronic Liver Diseases: A Single Institutional Cross-sectional Study”. I would like to express our gratitude to you and the reviewers for the extremely helpful comments and for your guidance in the revision. In the revised manuscript we followed the BMC Gastroenterology journal style. I hope that our efforts have succeeded in allaying your and the reviewers' concerns.

I have addressed each of their concerns as outlined below.

Comments to author

Editor Comments

(1) After discussion with our editorial board member, we have some comments for your consideration with the tables:

• SI units should be used, not mg/dl or other archaic forms.
• Some of the parameters are clearly not normally distributed (eg IGF-1) and medians should be used rather than means

• Some abbreviations are not explained (eg CB)

We would like to thank the editor for the valuable comments.

1) In the revised manuscript SI units were used instead of conventional units whenever possible. Table 3

2) Mean is generally considered the best measure of central tendency and the most frequently used one. However, there are some situations where median is preferred*. In the revised copy of manuscript we used median and IQR when

1. There are few extreme scores in the distribution.
2. Some scores have undetermined values.
3. There is an open ended distribution.
4. Data are measured in an ordinal scale.

These changes will be found in Table 3.


3) All abbreviations were written at the first time mentioned in the revised copy. Also, all abbreviations were mentioned as footnotes in all the tables

Claudia Mandato (Reviewer 2):

Authors adequately replied to my comments. In addition, I suggest to add the following sentence (reported in the conclusion session) into the Abstract : Our results identified anthropometric arm indicators and MUAC/A measurement as an effective applied methods for assessing nutritional status in CLD children.

Moreover, please add to the abstract the following sentence: Statistical comparison of cases with z scores &lt; -2 SD based on W/H (L) versus arm 14 indicators showed significant differences in MUAC, UAA and AMA (p &lt; 0. 001).
We would like to thank the reviewer for his valuable comments and careful review of the manuscript. Following the reviewer’s recommendations, in the revised copy of manuscript, the recommended changes were added in the abstract, page 2, lines 14, 15 and 20-21.

Thank you again for your support and great insightful comments that have certainly helped again in achieving much better work. We sincerely hope that you like the changes we have made to the manuscript.