Author's response to reviews

Title: The (FTO) gene polymorphism is associated with metabolic syndrome risk in Egyptian females: a case- control study

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Version: 1 Date: 18 Aug 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editorial board, BMC Medical Genetics journal:

we are pleased to submit our revised manuscript for consideration as original research paper entitled: “The (FTO) gene polymorphism is associated with metabolic syndrome risk in Egyptian females” as well as we are writing here a point by point reply letter for reviewers' comments and other technical comments as attached in the decision letter.

We want first to thank a lot for your efforts and time as well as the interest you showed in our manuscript.

Thank again for the valuable comments of all reviewers and editor we benefited from in presenting our work which added a lot to our current manuscript where we improved point-to-point according to the reviewers and editor essential minor revision in our second revision.

Listed below, a point-to-point reply letter to reviewers' and editor's valuable remarks and queries.

Technical comments by the editor:

1. Materials and Methods:

Please change this section header to 'Methods'.

2. Declarations

Please add this section header before the Ethics approval and consent to participate statement.
3. Authors' contributions

Please use initials instead of full authors' names in this statement.

4. Supplementary material

Please remove the cover letter and point-by-point response as this file will not be included in the published article.

5. Clean version

At this stage, we kindly ask you to submit a clean version of your manuscript. Please ensure that there is no highlighted or strikethrough text and that all track changes are accepted and switched off.

Our response:

Thank you very much for your comments. All requested comments are changed

Reviewer #2 comments (Dr. Shelley Cole)

1. Discussion, page 11, lines 15-18: The results are overstated. This should be rewritten as "Moreover, our study suggests for the first time an association of FTO polymorphism with high ALT levels that seems to be BMI independent, though the association was no longer statistically significant when corrected for multiple comparisons."

our response: Thank you so much for your comment. It is corrected.

2. Discussion, page 11, lines 22-27: Better expressed as "...was also associated with increased ALT levels [58]. This suggests an association of FTO genetic variation with ALT might be mediated through NAFLD, though participants with overt liver disease were excluded from our study. Another possibility is that FTO contributes directly to the regulation of hepatic metabolism [59]."

our response: Thank you so much for your comment. It is corrected.

3. Conclusions, page 12, lines 10-13: The results are again overstated. This should be rewritten as "Moreover, our study suggests a novel BMI and TAG-independent association of FTO genetic variation with elevated ALT levels that needs to be validated in other large sample sizes."

our response: Thank you so much for your comment. It is corrected.

4. When referring to the FTO gene it should be italicized, whereas when referring to FTO protein it shouldn't. This is inconsistently applied throughout.
Our response: Thank you so much for your comment. It is corrected throughout the whole manuscript.

Thank you a lot and looking forward to hearing from you and awaiting your kind acceptance.

The corresponding author

Prof. Hala. El-Mesallamy