Author’s response to reviews

Title: Gender differences in the prevalence of congenital heart disease in Down's syndrome: a brief meta-analysis.

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Author’s response to reviews:

To:

Dr. Matteo Pasini,

Dear Dr. Pasini:

We are submitting the revised version of the manuscript entitled “Gender difference in the prevalence of congenital heart disease in Down’s syndrome: a brief meta-analysis.” by Diogenes et al as a Research Article for publication in BMC Medical Genetics. The manuscript has been revised and altered to deal with your and the reviewer concerns. Specific responses to the editor’s and reviewers’ comments are appended.

All authors have read and approved the revised version of the manuscript; the manuscript has not been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere, in whole or in part, in any language, except as an abstract. In addition, the authors declare no conflict of interest.

We thank you in advance and hope this manuscript is now suitable for publication in the BMC Medical Genetics.

Sincerely yours,

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Answers to Editor and Reviewers (MGTC-D-17-00148R1)

We thank the editor and reviewers for their comments. This letter details the changes of our manuscript that we have made in response to each of the comments and suggestions provided.

Reviewer 1: This is much improved, well done. The table of data is very good but I think a 'totals' line at the bottom summing up the numbers of cases could be useful. One minor point: You have not included DSAV as an abbreviation, and need to.

A: We thank the reviewer for the comment and suggestions. A new row with the numbers of cases was added to the new Supplementary Table 2. DSAV is a Portuguese abbreviation to AVSD. We change it accordingly along the manuscript.

Reviewer 2: The reviewer appreciates the authors' careful attention to addressing the comments and is satisfied with most of the changes, with the following exceptions.

1. Page 3, line 3, CHD must be also written fully because this is the first appearance of the abbreviation in the manuscript text.

2. Page 4, line 39, …difference incidence…should be different incidence.

3. Page 5, line 14, …the populations included in this revision… The reviewer thinks the authors do not need to mention about revision, but can be manuscript or paper or meta-analysis.
4. Page 5, line 20-21, it was not possible perform an analysis … should be written: it was not possible to perform an analysis…

5. Page 10, legends of Figure 2, DSAV seems not a standard abbreviation. Please change it.

6. The resolution of Figure 2-4 seems so small that could not be clearly seen.

A: we thank the reviewer for the comments and suggestions. We performed all the required changes along the Manuscript. New Figures 2-4, with higher resolution, were created too.

Reviewer 3:

1. I suggest changing the last sentence of the first paragraph to:

"However, until now, there has been few reports looking into the association of gender with CHD in DS.

I suggest this change because the use of the word "genesis" suggest a mode of direct causation that cannot really be tested by these data (as the authors state in the conclusion).

2. I suggest you consider providing a more in depth collection of references at the end of the second paragraph. There have been a number of genetic studies of CHD in both humans with DS and mouse models of DS.


defects in Down syndrome. Genome Res, 23(9), 1410-1421. (this was cited later in the manuscript)


A: we thank the reviewer for the comments and suggestions. We performed all the required changes along the Manuscript. We also included the majority of references suggested by the reviewer at the end of the second paragraph.