Author’s response to reviews

Title: The potential effects of anabolic-androgenic steroids and growth hormone as commonly used sport supplements on the kidney: a systematic review

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Author's response to reviews:

Editor Comments:

1. Discussion

Please provide a ‘Discussion’ section after the Methods and before the Conclusions in the main text of this manuscript according to our editorial policy https://bmcnephrol.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article

This section should discuss the implications of the findings in context of existing research and highlight limitations of the study.

Response: It was revised (pages 5-14).
2. Authors’ contributions

As we note the author MMS was not mentioned as co-authors of this manuscript, please provide an explanation and amend this to the correct information. For anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship including anyone who provided professional writing services or materials, please mention them in the Acknowledgements section. However, if MMS is supposed to be added as a co-author, BMC requires written confirmation from all authors that they agree with any proposed changes in authorship of submitted manuscripts or published articles. In such cases, we use a standardised form which we would request you and your co-authors to complete. The change in authorship form can be found from the link on the following page: https://resource-cms.springernature.com/springer-cms/rest/v1/content/7454878/data/v5. All instructions can be found on the form. Please return the form within 14 days with all author signatures (including those newly added/removed). Please also ensure that the relevant authors change the statements in section 6 of the signature table to reflect whether their name is being added/removed.

Response: According to the authorship criteria of the ICMJE guideline, Professor Mohammad Mahdi Sagheb do not meet the required criteria because he only proposed the topic and designed the general format of this review. Therefore, we removed his name from the author list and his name and contribution relevant to this study were added into the acknowledgement section. The “change of authorship request form” has been also completed and signed by all authors including the removed one (Professor Mohammad Mahdi Sagheb).

3. Qualified authorship

Please note that based on the current authors’ contributions section, HK does not automatically qualify for authorship. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, writing of the manuscript or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not usually justify authorship. We ask that you ensure that author contributions are in line with the ICMJE guidelines (below), and that all listed authors have performed all four points specified below:

A. Made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;

B. Been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content;

C. Given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; and

D. Agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.
Please provide more information on individual author contributions and ensure author contributions listed in the authors’ contribution section are reflective of ICMJE guidelines.

Response: As added into the authors’ contribution section of the manuscript, Professor Hossein Khalili evaluated the quality of recruited clinical studies, interpreted the study results, critically edited the manuscript, and read and approved the final version of the manuscript before submission.

4. Textual overlap

We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:


This overlap mainly exists in the Methods (Page 6). Please see the attached report screenshot for your information.

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. Please rephrase these sections to minimise overlap.

Response: The text of relevant sections (pages 6 [lines 2-29], 10 [lines 17-31] & 11 [lines 1-2]) was rephrased. According to plagiarism checker, the similarity index of these sections was reduced from 40% to 9%.

5. Clean copy

On uploading your revisions, please remove any tracked changes or highlighting and include only a single clean copy of the manuscript.

Please also remove ‘Completed PRISMA Checklist_ (BMC Nephrology).doc’ and ‘Response to new Reviewer Comments (BMC nephrology).docx’ from the file inventory as these are no longer required at this editorial stage.

Response: All tracked changes as well as highlighted texts were removed from the manuscript. “Completed PRISMA Checklist and “Response to reviewer comments” files were also removed.
Reviewer reports:

Michael Hughson, MD (Reviewer 1): The authors have satisfied my concerns.
Response: Thanks.