Author's response to reviews

Title: Maternal lifestyle characteristics during pregnancy, and the risk of obesity in the offspring: a study of 5,125 children

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

We thank you and the reviewer for his/her thoughtful comments and critiques, which helped us improve our manuscript. We have responded to all comments and incorporated them into the revised manuscript (in red). Please see below a point-by-point response:

RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS’ COMMENTS

Comment 1
Table 2 - it’s not clear what the difference is between the univariate model and multivariate unadjusted model - either a footnote is needed to clarify this, or one of these columns can be omitted.

Answer to Comment 1
Following the Reviewer’s advice, the following footnote was added to Table 2:… (1) The effect of each predictor on the offspring BMI status was separately evaluated; (2) Includes all predictors (i.e maternal age at pregnancy, gestational weight gain, exercise levels, alcohol consumption and smoking on obesity status); (3) Includes all predictors entered in the full model plus, birth weight, maternal weight status pre-pregnancy and history of breastfeeding, as potential confounders. (Lines 551-553)

Comment 2
A line or two should be included in the results reporting the results of adjusted analyses, i.e. after adjusting for maternal age at pregnancy, birth weight, maternal weight status pre-pregnancy and history of breastfeeding, the effects observed in unadjusted analyses remained ...

Answer to Comment 2
The following phrase was added:….. The observed effects did not change when maternal age at pregnancy, birth weight, maternal weight status pre-pregnancy and history of breastfeeding, were entered in the model as potential confounders. (Lines 212-214)

Comment 3
Also, adjusted analyses could be mentioned in the discussion - the effects of GWG, physical activity and smoking status appear to be independent of the maternal and offspring characteristics that were included in multivariate analyses.
Answer to Comment 3
Following the Reviewer’s advice, the following phrase was added: ... It was revealed that GWG, physical activity and smoking status during pregnancy were significantly associated with obesity for the offspring at the age of 8 years. Moderate exercise during pregnancy was found to lower the risk of the offspring to develop overweight/obesity in childhood and preadolescence, even after adjusting for various maternal and offspring characteristics. (Lines 225-230).

Sincerely yours,

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