Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your interest in my manuscript and your valuable comments, which I have addressed previously.

Further, you suggested that Table 4 should be amended by reporting the median and IQR rather than the mean ranks of the 25(OH)D across the different subgroups.

To reply to your suggestion, kindly note that the non-parametric tests such as M-W U test and the K-W H test do not compare the medians of a continuous variable (25(OH)D in this case) across subgroups of a categorical variable. These tests compare the mean ranks instead. Thus, this is what I have reported.

Initially, I had searched for a test that compares the medians and found none. I am not a statistician and so I can not be absolutely sure that there is none, but according to the general statistical testing, there does not seem to be a test for comparing the medians in such case.

Per your comment, kindly note that the label “median” in Table 4 has been changed to “Mean rank”, which is the correct term.
If there is a better way to represent the data, please advise. I appreciate your time.

Best Regards

Khulood Alyahya