Author’s response to reviews

Title: The associations between some biological markers, obesity, and cardiovascular risk in Slovenian children and adolescents

Authors:
Nataša Marčun Varda (natasa.marcunvarda@amis.net)
Martina Medved (martina.medved@student.um.si)
Laura Ojsteršek (laura.ojstersek@gmail.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor Prof. Di Sessa,

We have read the comments and suggestions of both reviewers carefully and considered them in the manuscript. According to the comment of the inclusion of young adults in the study, the calculations have been done without them (there were only 7 of them). In addition, the Bonferroni adjustment for the p-value has been used. The differences in new calculations are presented in blue colour. The article was also revised by an English proof-reader, his corrections are marked by red colour, as well as additional or changed text, according to reviewer’s suggestions. The explanations to the reviewers are enclosed below. I hope that the revised version of the manuscript is good enough to be considered for publication in your journal.

Sincerely,
Nataša Marčun Varda

Reviewer 1:
Thank you for your worthy review which helped us to improve some points of the manuscript. The age range is really vast, therefore the young adults have been excluded from the calculations (there were only 7 of them). However, the mean values of age of research groups are not statistically different which has been commented in the discussion. After the new calculations, the sample includes 330 children and adolescents (from 8 months to 18 years). The changes in the calculations are marked by blue colour, including the Bonferroni adjustment for the p-value. We have also tried to change the writing in the first-person. In addition, the manuscript has been revised by an English proof-reader. All your other comments have been included and the introduction has been revised as proposed.

TITLE AND KEYWORDS

We have included new keywords: hypertension and hyperlipidaemia.
ABSTRACT

Hyphen was added in normal-weight hypertension and this was corrected through the whole text. The article in THE control group was also corrected and the comma was put where you proposed. All the other corrections, proposed by our native English speaker, have also been included and marked by red colour.

INTRODUCTION

We have exposed the rationale of the study and added some new references to support it. Unnecessary comma (page 4, line 3) has been removed.
OVERWEIGHT was included instead of OBESE.
CRUCIAL has been included instead of IMPORTANT.
Instead of comma in page 4, line 16, a new sentence has been written.
Both hard-to-read sentences have been omitted from the text.
An article has been added in page 4, line 30 as well as in line 34.

METHODS

We agree with your comment, therefore the young adults group has been excluded from the calculations. There were only 7 such patients. The calculations showed no important differences compared to the first calculations.
We have changed DETERMINE to ASSESS.
We have added missing hyphen in this line and throughout the text.
Writing in the first person was corrected.
THE has been added to Pearson.
ANOVA test was corrected.
The article A has been added to the sentence (page 5, line 23).

RESULTS

THE has been added in the first sentence.
The sentence has been corrected to …were ALSO found (according to our proof-reader).
THE has been added (page 5, line 34).
An article has been added in the sentence (page 6, line 19).
In page 9, line 1, the article A has been added, as well as in line 3 in the same page.

DISCUSSION

OUR has been changed to THE CURRENT and comma has been added.
Both articles have been added in page 11, line 58, and the second “value” has been replaced by RESULTS.
The article has been added in page 12, line 17-18.
The sentence has been changed as you suggested and the article has been added (page 12, line 22-23).

The sentence has been changed to …highest in THE healthy population and lowest in obese patients (according to our proof-reader).

The article has been added in page 12 (AN important parameter).

This sentence was corrected by our proof-reader to …other studies have shown that the parameters of children’s body structure are related to leptin, but not to adiponectin.

The article has been added in page 12, line 58.

The splitting of the sentence has been done as you suggested.

The misplaced adverbial ALSO has been put in the right place.

The article A has been added (page 13, line 39).

Reviewer 2:

Thank you for all your valuable comments and suggestions which have been included in the manuscript as you suggested.

FEEDBACK
1. The manuscript has been revised by a native English speaker as you suggested.

2. The young adults have been excluded from the calculations according to the comments of the other reviewer about the vast age range and young adults. The sample description has been unified as “children and adolescents” and in some instances as “patients”.

3. The title has been changed as you suggested.

ABSTRACT

The term NEW biological markers has been replaced by POTENTIAL.

There were 337 participants, including the control patients, which has been explained in the manuscript. However, after the exclusion of young adults (there were only 7 of them) the number has been decreased to 330 participants.

Some clinical parameters and performed biochemical analyses have been included in the abstract.

Some important p-values have been also included in the text.

The grammar has been corrected by our English proof-reader. The comparison to the control group has been included in the text.
INTRODUCTION

Some new references about BMI as predictor of cardiovascular disease and obesity, and about investigated biological markers have been included in the manuscript.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Riva-Rocci method has been briefly described.

Standard procedures have been described and the reference included.

WAS has been replaced by WERE.

The sample in line 13 has not been used as the whole paragraph about statistical methods has been revised.

Min. and max. have been omitted from the text as they were not provided, except for the age range.

MEAN has been used instead of AVERAGE.

The paragraph about statistical analyses has been revised as you suggested. Bonferroni adjustment for the p-value has been used as well.

RESULTS
The main findings from the tables have been included in the text as you suggested.

Table 1. The comparison of the total score with the control group has been omitted from the table as you suggested. Anthropometrical parameters have been kept because they show the differences in them between the research groups.

Table 4. BMI abbreviation has been removed.

Table 5. The text about the relevant correlations have been included and the table removed from the manuscript. It can be included in the Additional file.

We agree with you that there is a lot of information. We have joined the Tables 1 and 2 in one table and removed the Table 5. The comparison of BMI and potential biomarkers has been exposed as well as the differences in the mean values of the biomarkers in research groups.

DISCUSSION

In the first paragraph an overview of the study has been provided as you suggested.