Author’s response to reviews

Title: Clinical and metabolic response to vitamin D plus probiotic in schizophrenia patients

Authors:
amir ghaderi (gaderiam@yahoo.com)
Hamid Banafshe (banafshe57@hotmail.com)
Naghmeh Mirhosseini (namirhossini@gmail.com)
Mohamad Moradi (moradi185@gmail.com)
Mohammad-Amin Karimi (Auso.karimi@yahoo.com)
Fateme Mehrzad (mehrzadfatemeh60@gmail.com)
Fereshteh Bahmani (bahmani.fereshteh2@gmail.com)
Zatollah Asemi (Asemi_r@yahoo.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Mantere,

Thank you very much for your letter informing us of your decision regarding the manuscript no. BMC Psychiatry - BPSY-D-18-00828 entitled "Clinical and metabolic response to vitamin D plus probiotic in schizophrenia patients". The manuscript has been revised according to the referees’ comments. Responses to the reviewers' comments have been provided below.

Yours Sincerely,

Corresponding Author. Research Center for Biochemistry and Nutrition in Metabolic Diseases, Kashan University of Medical Sciences, Kashan, I.R. Iran. Tel: +98-31-55463378; Fax: +98-31-55463377. E-mail addresses: asemi_r@yahoo.com (Z.Asemi).

First of all, we would like to thank the reviewers for their great comments to improve the quality of the manuscript. We tried our best to revise the manuscript according to the reviewers' comments.
Comments from the editors and reviewers:

Editor

I apologize for being unable to find more reviewers despite my efforts. I think this is due to a few major concerns and thus, I hope you could address these. See the comment by the first reviewer. Furthermore, please describe the nutritional status of these patients.

Authors: Data on dietary intakes of study participants added to the revised version. Please, see Table 2.

“Based on 3-days dietary records, we observed no significant difference in dietary energy, carbohydrate, protein, fat, saturated fatty acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids, monounsaturated fatty acids, cholesterol, total dietary fiber and micronutrients between the two groups at baseline, weeks 5, 9 and 12 of the study (Table 2)” (Lines 226-9).

Do you suppose that the results would generalize to inpatients, also outpatients, what about western populations, or are there some specific conditions in the hospitals in Iran?

Authors: This point clarified:

“In current study, all patients were hospitalized during the intervention, otherwise there was no difference in treatment protocol between outpatient and inpatient. The only difference might be the compliance rate which was closely monitored for inpatients. Moreover, to our best knowledge, the treatment protocol for schizophrenic patients is similar around globe. So, the results of this study can be generalized to other countries” (Lines 264-8).

Reviewer 1:

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?

I recommend additional statistical review.

Authors: Thank you. Statistical analysis was done by an expert statistical consultant.

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript. Needs some language corrections before being published.

Authors: Paper edited by a speaker native.