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 (Auskarimi@yahoo.com)
Fateme Mehrzad (mehrzadatemeh60@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.
Reviewer reports:

1. Thank you for providing an Ethics and consent for participation statement for your Declarations section, please list the full, unabbreviated name of the ethics review board that approved of your study.

Authors: This point was done:

Ethics approval and consent to participate

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments. Study protocol was approved by the ethics committee at Kashan University of Medical Sciences (KAUMS) (No. IR.KAUMS.REC.1396.10). Informed consent was signed by all participants prior to the intervention (Lines 409-15).

2. Under your Ethics approval and consent to participate heading in the Declarations section, please clarify whether informed consent obtained from participants was written or verbal.

Authors: This point was done:

Ethics approval and consent to participate

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments. Study protocol was approved by the ethics committee at Kashan University of Medical Sciences (KAUMS) (No. IR.KAUMS.REC.1396.10). Informed consent was signed by all participants prior to the intervention (Lines 409-15).

3. Please include the trial registration number, as well as the date of trial registration, at the end of the Abstract section. If the date of registration is after the date that the first participant was recruited, please also state ‘retrospectively registered’.

Authors: This comment was done:

“This study was retrospectively registered in the Iranian website (www.irct.ir) for clinical trials registration (http://www.irct.ir: IRCT2017072333551N2)” (Lines 63-4).

4. We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works. This overlap mainly exists in the Methods, Results, and Discussion section.

The overlap primarily occurs between your submission and the previously published source:
Vitamin D and probiotic co-supplementation affects mental health, hormonal, inflammatory and oxidative stress parameters in women with polycystic ovary syndrome


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 note that an abundance of overlapping text may preclude a given manuscript from publication. Therefore, we ask that you please re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap and prevent future delays in the editorial process for your manuscript.

Authors: Thank you. We tried our best to re-wrote the similar parts. However, some parts in the manuscript were unavoidable.

5. When submitting your revised manuscript please ensure you do so as a single clean copy without any tracked changes, colored or highlighted text, as these are no longer required at this stage of the editorial process.

Authors: This point was done.