Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity with neck circumference in eight Latin American countries

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Version: 2 Date: 29 May 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Natalie Pafitis and Eva Szunyogova,

Editors-in-Chief of BMC Public Health
First of all, we are grateful regarding our paper submitted to BMC Public Health by the care and attention given to the manuscript "Association of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity with neck circumference in eight Latin American countries". Our response about comments are bellow.

Editor comments

1: We note that many paragraphs in the Methods section have been reused from one of your previous publications, 'Latin American Study of Nutrition and Health (ELANS): rationale and study design'. BMC Public Health (2016) doi: 10.1186/s12889-016-2765-y While we understand that the methodology is the same, we would appreciate if you try to minimise direct repetition of large sections of previously published text. Please summarize the methods and cite your previous publication, e.g. 'As described previously'

RESPONSE: Thank you for your suggestion. We have correct it.

1: We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:

RESPONSE: Thank you for your suggestion. We have correct all information.

3. The last section of the abstract should be Trial Registration: listing the trial registry and the unique identifying number, e.g. Trial registration: Current Controlled Trials ISRCTN73824458, as well as the date of registration

RESPONSE: We have added this information in the abstract.

4. In your “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of your declarations please confirm if an ethics committee approved the use of verbal consent instead of written, and why verbal consent was used rather than written. Please also detail how you documented the consent.

RESPONSE: We have added this information in the section.

5. When uploading your revised manuscript please assign it to the 'Energy balance related behaviours' section.

RESPONSE: Ok.
6. Please upload your revised manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. Please also ensure that all figures/tables and supplementary files are cited within the text. Any items which are not cited may be deleted by our production department upon publication.

RESPONSE: Ok.

Reviewer 2

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)

Yes - there is a clear objective

RESPONSE: Thank you.

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

RESPONSE: Thank you.

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

RESPONSE: Thank you.

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

RESPONSE: Thank you.
INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

RESPONSE: Thank you.

GENERAL COMMENTS: Overall, the authors have addressed my previous concerns in their responses and revisions to the manuscript. The revised manuscript overall is a good manuscript with some useful and novel information.

RESPONSE: Thank you.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

In the abstract, line 34-39, it reads as if the authors are differentiating between adolescents and adults based on neck circumference, but I think they mean to state that the indicated neck circumferences are indications of obesity.

RESPONSE: Thank you. We have changed the information.

Francesca Gallè (Reviewer 3): The Authors have made the changes indicated and I think that the manuscript may be accepted for publication; I only suggest that the Authors report the reply to my comment n. 4 (related to the percentage of the sample wearing the accelerometers) in the methods.

RESPONSE: We have added this information in the methods.

Looking forward to your response,

Yours sincerely,

Corresponding author