Author's response to reviews

Title: Cystatin C as a potential predictor of osteoprotegerin levels in healthy men. A cross-sectional, observational study.

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As requested, a completed STROBE checklist has been uploaded as an additional file.

The majority of the recommendations of the STROBE statement were already part of the manuscript. Since the present article is based on the HunMen study (see ref 23), we have made the following additions to this revised version in order to clarify and address certain points that needed further emphasis:

Under the Materials and Methods section, on page 4, line 89, the sentence has been updated as follows:

“The fasting serum samples (n = 194) for OPG and soluble RANKL (sRANKL) determinations belonged to participants in the HunMen cross-sectional, observational study [23].”

Under the Materials and Methods section, on page 4, line 92, the following sentence has been added:

“Recruitment was between September 2009 and September 2010.”

Under the Results section, on page 6, lines 149-153, the following sentence has been included:

“In the HunMen study, a total of 229 randomly selected volunteers agreed to participate. Volunteers not confirming to the inclusion and/or confirming to the exclusion criteria (n=23) were excluded from the study’s final statistical analysis. The HunMen study was not designed primarily for the aim of this study, and only 194 samples were available for serum OPG and sRANKL determination from a total of 206 participants.”

Under the Results section, on page 6, lines 153-154, the sentence has been updated as follows:

“The general characteristics of the subjects (n=194) are presented in table 1.”