Author’s response to reviews

Title: Exploratory study of the reproducibility of the SCore for INtrinsic and EXtrinsic skin Aging (SCINEXA) scale in “Ruta Escondida de la Mitad del Mundo”, Ecuador, 2017.

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Dear Editor,

We are very grateful for the opportunity you gave us to publish the results of the work entitled “Exploratory study of the reproducibility of the SCore for INtrinsic and EXtrinsic skin Aging (SCINEXA) scale in “Ruta Escondida de la Mitad del Mundo”, Ecuador, 2017.

We thank also the time and effort of the reviewers to make this paper of better quality. We made our best to follow your suggestions.

Next, you will find new changes made to the manuscript.
Editor Response

In the Table-2 you have not determine the scale of sun exposure and sun protector; I mean, for instance, 3 hours in day, week, or month. Which of them is true? Please define it. It was added to table 2 (daily basis) and also in methods section “Habits of exposure to sun and prevention was been evaluated in daily basis.”

Reviewer 3

Sample size calculation and the power of the study are so important and should be added in the study design and in the methods section as you are aiming to evaluate the reproducibility of the SCINEXA scale in south Americans non-Caucasian population of a region of Ecuador; so is this sample sufficient or not? It is important question to answer to get a valid conclusion. It was added:

The sample size calculation was derived from Walter et al. [5] and used a fixed alpha of 0.05, statistical power of 0.80 from three observations per subject with reliability values of R0 (Intraclass correlation coefficient) = 0.6 (moderate/acceptable) and R1 = 0.8 /substantial(expected), indicating a minimum sample size of n = 30. (drop-outs of 5%)

From this we can say that the sample size was enough for this population and not for all the country

Genetic determinants of skin phenotypes were not assessed This has been declared as a limitation of the study.

Most of the subjects in the study were from one town in a particular geographical area; with problems in generalization of results. This is declared in conclusions:

This study provides evidence for test-retest reproducibility, and response stability of the SCINEXA scale in non-Caucasian people living in a specific geographical area from South America but not for the entire country.

The SCINEXA scores show moderate to substantial reproducibility in healthy Ecuadorean adults of Mitad del Mundo, where the study took place