Author's response to reviews

Title: Associations between body composition and lifestyle factors with bone mineral density according to time since menopause in women from Southern Brazil: a cross-sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Editorial Board
*BMC Endocrine Disorders*

Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to further amend our manuscript entitled “Associations between body composition and lifestyle factors with bone mineral density according to time since menopause in women from Southern Brazil: a cross-sectional study,” which we submitted for publication in *BMC Endocrine Disorders*. We have just uploaded the revised version of the article, in which we address all the points raised. Also, please find below our response to each specific point raised.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding the status of this revised manuscript. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us at any time if you require any further clarifications.

Sincerely,

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Responses to Reviewer

Major points:

1) Page 6, lines 116-120, methods: Were samples run immediately after collection, or stored for future assay? If stored, what were the storage conditions?

R: Yes, the samples were run immediately after collection. That information, along with a sentence about the maintenance of the methods of analysis throughout the study, was added to page 6, lines 120-121.

2) Page 11, lines 233-234, discussion: Why were the variables evaluated not different between the women with normal and low bone mass more than 5 years postmenopausal? One might think that later postmenopausal life might magnify the effects on the same parameters seen in earlier postmenopausal life.

R: We believe that this was related to the difference in the trabecular volumetric bone mass density - we hypothesize that the association of adiposity and BMD was more evident in recent postmenopausal women because they had more trabecular bone than those in later postmenopausal life (in whom trabecular bone is lost due to the high bone turnover occurring throughout the postmenopausal years).

This hypothesis, along with a suggestion for further studies assessing volumetric bone density and microarchitecture by high-resolution peripheral quantitative computed tomography in postmenopausal populations, was added to lines 234-248.