Author’s response to reviews

Title: Pro Inflammatory Interleukins and Thyroid Function in Naswar (Dipping Tobacco) Users: a case control study.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Cover letter

Dear editor

Many thanks for reviewing our article titled Pro Inflammatory Interleukins and Thyroid Function in Naswar (Dipping Tobacco) Users: a case control study (BEND-D-16-00044). Following are the point-by-point responses to the comments.

Reviewer #2:

Major Revisions

Comment 1

The writer should mention the differences between Naswar and cigarette in terms of the mechanisms it affects thyroid functions and inflammatory markers. It should also be mentioned on which grounds the study is authentic.
Response

The effect of cigarette smoking on thyroid function has been rewritten lines 44-53 page 5 and line 11 page 6 and on inflammatory markers lines 26-41 page 5. No study has been conducted to assess the effect of Naswar on thyroid hormones and inflammatory markers for which the present study was undertaken. For authenticity of the study kindly review lines 17-26 page 5.

Comment 2

The writer, in the introduction part, argues that nicotine has an immunosuppressive effect (lines 45-46); however, in graves ophthalmopathy, it is known that cigarette results in the progression of the disorder. The difference should be clarified.

Response

Thank you for the suggestion. The difference has been rewritten. Kindly refer to lines 44-53 page 5 and line 11 on page 6.

Comment 3

The amount of Naswar use was evaluated only in terms of length of consumption time. There was no meaningful difference between these 3 groups; the amount of use during these periods might have an impact on the inflammatory response. This factor should be taken into consideration.

Response

We aimed to evaluate the effect of duration of Naswar consumption on thyroid hormones and proinflammatory interleukins. We acknowledge the reviewers suggestion regarding the effect of amount of Naswar but that wasnt our aim of the study but would be undertaken in future studies.

Minor Revisions

Comment 1
Abbreviation ST (line 25) should be explained.

Response
Smokeless tobacco (ST) corrected. (now line 36 page 4)

Comment 2
There should be following IFN (line 32).
Response
following IFN added. (now present at line 47 page 4)

Comment 3
IL-1 instead of il1 a (line 36), IL-8 instead of il-8.
Response
Corrections done.

Additional comments of the editor:

Comment 1
Please delete p values from the abstract.
Response
Deleted.

Comment 2
please provide normal reference ranges of thyroid functions
Response
Normal reference ranges provided in methods section line 50 page 7 and lines 11-13 page 8.
Comment 3

Only the significant correlations should be given in the figure others should be deleted.

Response

Thank you for the suggestion. In our opinion the non-significant values are also important to be mentioned to compare with the significant ones. Therefore, it is kindly requested that the figure be allowed to remain as such.

Declaration section rewritten (page 12)

Thank you again & Best Regards

Faiza Sajid

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