Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Insulin treatment corrects hepcidin but not YKL-40 levels in persons with type 2 diabetes mellitus matched by Body Mass Index, Waist-to-Height Ratio, C-Reactive Protein and Creatinine

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**Author’s response to reviews:**

Dear Editor,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to resolve minor issues relating to our work. Point-by-point corrections according to the comments sent are as follows:

1) In the previous version the conclusion of the abstract suggested that hepcidin levels could be used as a marker of early changes in glucose metabolism better than YKL-40, however this statement was changed in the new version, why?

Response to comment 1: Unfortunately there was a small technical mistake regarding this sentence. The sentence has been modified in its previous form (“Conclusion” section of abstract).

2) The data about age data added has no discrimination about the groups studied, please discriminate to which group the age range belongs. Also, since reviewer 1 speculate about the possible correlation between age and YKL-40 plasma levels, please indicate if there is any correlation between these parameters observed in our study.

Response to comment 2: Data about age have now been clarified in terms of group discrimination (“Results” section, line 7-8, page 8).
We have also entered data concerning the correlation between age and YKL-40 in Table 2 (page 19). No correlation was observed between YKL-40 and age in three groups. Correlation between age and YKL-40 increases exponentially with age, and as studies suggest this difference is significant only with older age (>70) [1,2]. We believe that the lack of correlation between YKL and age in our study groups was related to 3 factors. First, our patient’s median age did not differ drastically (see “Results” section, line 7-8, page 8). Second, age-range in any of the groups was narrow, which means that it did not encompass all age groups (see interquartile range for age for all groups in “Results” section, line 7-8, page 8). Also, number of patients with age>70 was small; 1/20 in control group, 3/30 in prediabetic patients, 3/30 in diabetic patients.


Kind regards,

Ramadan B. Sopi