Author’s response to reviews

Title: Associations between ERα/β Gene Polymorphisms and Osteoporosis Susceptibility and Bone Mineral Density in Postmenopausal Women: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Authors:

Heping Zhu (Heping_Zhu@qq.com)

Jiannong Jiang (JiannongJiang223@163.com)

Qiang Wang (Qiang_Wang223@163.com)

Jun Zong (JunZong445@qq.com)

Liang Zhang (LiangZhang556@sina.com)

Tieliang Ma (TieliangMa44332@qq.com)

Youjia Xu (YoujiaXu558@qq.com)

Leiyan Zhang (2004zhp-pp@sohu.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Prof. Stavros Liatis,

We appreciate very much your encouraging decision and reviewers’ constructive and positive comments for our original manuscript entitled 'Associations between ERα/β Gene Polymorphisms and Osteoporosis Susceptibility and Bone Mineral Density in Postmenopausal Women: A systematic review and meta-analysis'. Based on the reviewers’ comments, we have further revised our manuscript and made itemized responses to the comments as below. The changes in the revised manuscript are highlighted in red. We would like to re-submit this revised manuscript to BMC Endocrine Disorders, and hope that it is acceptable for publication in the journal. Please do not hesitate to contact us with additional questions or concerns.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Below are our point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ comments.

Responses:

Reviewer #1 (Patricia Canto):
1. This is a new version of the MS ID: BEND-D-17-00137R1. The authors have improved the previous version of the manuscript and answered my questions; however, I think the discussion continues to be very long and messy.

Answer: Thank you for your comments. We have rewritten our Discussion Section.

2. In conclusions, the authors mentioned "ERα/β gene polymorphisms were significantly associated with PMOP risk and BMD in postmenopausal women..." They must to write: … in Caucasian and Asian postmenopausal women, since they only analyzed these ethnic groups.

Answer: Thank you for your comments. We have revised it in our revised manuscript (Discussion section, line 412-415, page 19). ERα/β gene polymorphisms were significantly associated with PMOP risk and BMD in postmenopausal women, but each ERα/β gene polymorphism may have a distinct effect on PMOP risk and BMD in Asian and Caucasian populations.

Reviewer #2 (Torben Harslof):

The authors have complied with the issues raised in my review. They do, however, now write that there are "2400 million people with osteoporosis in the United States alone". This is obviously not true. Please correct.

Answer: Thank you for your encouraging comments. We have revised it in our revised manuscript (Introduction section, line 68-72, page 4). Postmenopausal osteoporosis (PMOP) is a common metabolic bone disorder characterized by low bone mineral density (BMD) and increased fracture risks [1-3]. It is estimated that osteoporosis affects approximately 10 million American adults, with another 34 million being at high risk due to low bone mass[4].