Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of Metabolic syndrome in Saudi Arabia - a cross sectional study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript BEND-D-17-00102R1 entitled “Prevalence of Metabolic syndrome in Saudi Arabia"

The section editor comments were valid and were considered carefully and we have made the necessary changes in the manuscript wherever appropriate:

Reviewer 1

General Comments:

Abstract
Abstract conclusion “This society show cases of high prevalence of metabolic syndrome”…. Re word: “This study show a high prevalence of Metabolic syndrome in Saudi Arabia”.

The suggested change has been made in the conclusion section of the abstract and highlighted in yellow.

Manuscript

Methods:

1. Why were 34,047 excluded?

- Those participants were not compatible with Saudi national census for the year 2007 in terms of age, gender and area of residency.

Results

1. “The studied cohort of 12,126 subjects represent the normal distribution for Saudi population”, this sentence is confusing, what does it mean? Do they mean that the data is representative of the Saudi population?

- Yes, it does mean that it is representative of the Saudi population. The sentence has been updated in the manuscript.

- This sentence is difficult to read “Although the mean body weight and height were significantly higher among men, women had a significantly higher mean BMI, especially with morbid obesity (BMI ≥30 kg/m2) reported at 36.48%.”…. keep t simple, the prevalence of obesity was greater in women vs men (xx% vs. xx%, p value)

- Checked and corrected.

2. Again another difficult sentence “men more predominantly smokers at 26.4% versus 1.36% for women”.. why not the a higher proportion of men were smokers when compared to women

- Checked and corrected.

3. Table 3: multivariate adjusted for what?
- The adjustment was made for all the variables listed in the table. This information was added in table 3 legend.

4. Women in this cohort older than 70 years of age, had more prevalence of metabolic syndrome than men, which could be explained by the post-menopausal estrogen withdrawal effect which increases the prevalence of chronic diseases”; it could also be survival issue with men with metabolic syndrome from younger age dying.

   - This point is valid and this explanation was included as follow” This could be explained on one hand by the post-menopausal estrogen withdrawal effect that increases the prevalence of chronic diseases [33], and on the other hand by the poor survival observed among men with metabolic syndrome at a younger age.”

5. The discussion is too long and has significant repetition with the introduction and results; this should be streamlined and be much more focused. Also the discussion should include limitations and strengths of the current study.

   - The discussion was reviewed and repeated information were omitted.

6. Please Another difficult sentence “men should be more careful in this society since metabolic syndrome is more prevalent”… it can be simplified, men were particularly at risk of having the metabolic syndrome.

   - Checked and corrected as follow “men were particularly at a greater risk of having metabolic syndrome.”

7. Improvements to the English language within your manuscript have been requested. You should have your manuscript reviewed by someone who is fluent in English, ideally a professional copyeditor. If you would like professional help in revising this manuscript, you can use any reputable English language editing service. We can recommend our affiliates Peerwith for help with English usage (https://bmc.peerwith.com/bend/language-editing).

   - Thank you for this suggestion. The manuscript English language has been reviewed through the recommended affiliates “Peerwith” by Dr. Petal Smart.”

Thank you for considering our manuscript.

Kind Regards