Author’s response to reviews

Title: The effects of synbiotic supplementation on hormonal status, biomarkers of inflammation and oxidative stress in subjects with polycystic ovary syndrome: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial

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Version: 3 Date: 19 Feb 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Ziemnicka,

Thank you very much for your letter informing us of your decision regarding the manuscript no. BEND-D-18-00022R1 entitled "The effects of synbiotic supplementation on hormonal status, biomarkers of inflammation and oxidative stress in subjects with polycystic ovary syndrome: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial". The manuscript has been revised according to the referees’ comments. Responses to the reviewers' comments have been provided below. Thank you so much in advance.

Yours Sincerely,

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First of all, we would like to thank the reviewer for the great comments to improve the quality of our manuscript. We tried our best to revise the manuscript according to the reviewer' comments. We are happy to hear that your concerns have been addressed.

1. Please include a ‘Trial registration’ heading at the end of the abstract. This should include the repository, registration number and date of registration. If it was not registered prospectively (before enrollment of the first participant), you should include the words 'retrospectively registered'. See our editorial policies for more information on trial registration.

Authors: Thank you. This point was done:

“This study was retrospectively registered in the Iranian website (www.irct.ir) for registration of clinical trials (http://www.irct.ir: IRCT201509115623N53)” (Lines 60-2).

2. We note that many paragraphs in the Methods section have some textual overlap with other previously published works, particularly:

“The Effects of Vitamin D Supplementation on Metabolic Status of Patients with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial (2017) Hormone and metabolic research.”

“Synbiotic supplementation and the effects on clinical and metabolic responses in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial (2017), British Journal of Nutrition”

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. Therefore, we would appreciate if you try to minimise direct repetition of large sections of previously published text.

Authors: Thank you. I apologize for this mistake. I re-righted Methods section.

3. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colors. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Authors: Thank you. This point was done.