Author’s response to reviews

Title: Low vitamin D levels are associated with cognitive impairment in patients with hashimoto thyroiditis

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ANSWER TO REFEREE COMMENTS

Technical Comments:

1) Please revise the Authors contributions section so that the initials closely reflect the authors' names, e.g. HJY and WZC instead of HJ and WZ.

Answer: Thanks for your careful review and insightful comment. We have modified the initials of the authors’ names in the revised manuscript. (line 254-255, page 12).
2) Please move the List of abbreviations to after Conclusions and above Declarations.

Answer: We appreciate you for raising the important issue. We have moved the List of abbreviations to after Conclusions and above Declarations. (line 226-232, page 11).

Reviewer reports:

Martin Hewison (Reviewer 1):

1. Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Answer: Thanks for your careful review and insightful comment. We have resummitted the revised manuscript obeying your suggestions.

The authors have improved the manuscript. However, I think they may have misunderstood some comments:

2. The quartile data presented by the authors is very interesting, but should either be extended to a quintile to include patients with serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D less than 25 nmol/L - presumably most of these will have MCI? Or expand the quartiles. Basically it is important to know the levels of MCI in patients who are severely vitamin D-deficient (i.e. less than 25 nmol/L). This is the level that has been proposed as predisposing to rachitic bone disease and thus it would be interesting to know if this level also predisposed to MCI.

Answer: Thanks for your careful review. In the current study, the number of patients with serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D less than 25 nmol/L was very small (n=4), which made us unable to expand the quartiles. We will take your valuable comment in mind and would incorporate it into our further study.
3. The median 25-hydroxyvitamin D values should be given for each quartile/quintile.

Answer: Thanks for your careful review and insightful comment. The median 25-hydroxyvitamin D values for all quartiles were 30.8, 36.6, 43.7 and 53.1 nmol/L, respectively. These data have been added to the revised manuscript (Methods section, line 116-117, page 6).

This is fine but I think it would help to actually have these data in Table 2.

Answer: Thanks for your careful review and insightful comment. We have moved these data to Table 2. (line 409, page 20; line 414, page 21).

Rowan Hardy (Reviewer 2): The authors have taken reasonable steps to address concerns raised in the original review. This manuscript is now suitable for publication.

Answer: We are truly grateful to the positive comments from you.