Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effect of liraglutide on blood pressure: a meta-analysis of liraglutide randomized controlled trials

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor and reviewers,

Thank you for your comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Effect of liraglutide on blood pressure: a meta-analysis of liraglutide randomized controlled trials" (BEND-D-18-00260_R4). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. The main corrections in the paper and the response to the reviewer’s comments are as follows.

Editor Comments:

1. Title Page

Please include the email addresses for all authors on the title page. The corresponding author should still be indicated.

Response: Thank you for your comments. Considering the editor’s suggestion, we have included the email addresses for all authors on the title page (Title page, line 6-9).

2. Abstract

Please include an abstract after your title page. Your abstract should include the following headings: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions, and should be no longer than 350 words. Please also include a keywords section, which should three to ten keywords.
Background: the context and purpose of the study

Methods: how the study was performed and statistical tests used

Results: the main findings

Conclusions: brief summary and potential implications

Please ensure you apply this format to the abstract in the main text and the submission system also.

Response: Thank you for your kindly advise. We have made sure our manuscript include an abstract after the title page and we apply this demanded format to the abstract in the main text and the submission system also (Abstract section, page 1, line 14).

3. Main Text

In order to be in line with journal requirements, please include the following headings within your manuscript: Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions

Response: We have made sure our manuscript included these headings in the main text.

4. Declarations

Please note that all manuscripts must contain all the following sections under the heading 'Declarations'. The Declarations should follow the Conclusions section, and be before the References.

If the information required is already provided in the main manuscript, please also copy the relevant statements to the Declarations.

If any of the sections are not relevant to your manuscript, please include the heading and write 'Not applicable' for that section.

Abbreviations

-Placed below conclusions and above the declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

-Please include a statement on ethics approval and consent to participate in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations.
Please include the full name of the ethics committee (and the institute to which it belongs to) that approved the study and the committee’s reference number if appropriate.

If you did not need formal ethics approval please confirm that this complies with national guidelines and provide a reference which supports this. Alternatively, supply a statement that says that a named local ethics committee ruled that no formal ethics approval was required in this particular case.

In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section, please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your manuscript. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure. If the need for consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.

Consent for publication

-We note that you have not included a ‘Consent for publication’ section in the Declarations. Consent for publication refers to consent for the publication of identifying images or other personal or clinical details of participants that compromise anonymity. Seeing as this is not applicable to your manuscript please state “Not Applicable” in this section.

Availability of data and material

-We strongly encourage all authors to share their raw data, either by providing it in a supplementary file or depositing it in a public repository and providing the details on how to access it in this section. If you do not wish to share your data, please clearly state this in this section along with a justification. Data availability statements can take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple datasets):

• The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK TO DATASETS]

• The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

• The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

• The data that support the findings of this study are available from [third party name] but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not publicly available. Data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission of [third party name].
Competing interests

- Please include a statement regarding any financial or non-financial competing interest your declarations under the heading ‘Competing Interests’. If there are no competing interests, please state “The authors declare no competing interests”.

Funding

- We note that you have not included a ‘Funding’ section in the Declarations. All sources of funding for the research reported should be declared. If no funding was obtained for your study we still require this section to be included with the statement “No funding was obtained for this study”.

Authors’ contributions

- Please include a statement regarding the contributions of all authors under the “Authors’ Contribution” section of the Declarations. Please represent author’s names using their full initials, not their name. If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors. Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found here: http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship

Acknowledgements

- We note that you have not included an acknowledgements section. If you have no acknowledgements please put ‘Not Applicable’ in this section. Please do not include funding information in the Acknowledgements.

Response: We should like to express our appreciation to the editor for suggesting how to improve our paper. According to the editor’s suggestion, we have included all the following sections under the heading 'Declarations' (Abbreviations section, page 22, line 5 and Declarations section, page 22, line 21).

5. Figures

Figures should be provided as separate files, and each figure of a manuscript should be submitted as a single file.

Figure files should contain only the image, as well as any associated keys/annotations. If legends are present within the figure files, please remove them.
Please provide figure legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript or the figure files, please move them.

Please ensure that all figures, tables and supplementary/additional files are cited within the text. Any items which are not cited may be deleted by our production department upon publication.

Please bear in mind that multi-panel figures (those with parts a, b, c, d etc.) should be submitted as a single composite file that contains all parts of the figure.

Response: Thanks for your good advice. We have made sure that all of our figures meet the requirement.

6. Clean Manuscript

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 colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

Response: Thanks for your kindly suggestion. We will upload a clean version of our manuscript.