Author’s response to reviews

Title: An analysis of the associations between gender and metabolic syndrome components in Korean adults: a national cross-sectional study

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Reviewer reports:
Aldo Ferreira-Hermosillo, MD, MSc (Reviewer 1): In this manuscript, the authors properly describe the impact of gender in each of the metabolic syndrome components by age and BMI in Korea adults. They shown the information clear and concise. The results presented are relevant.

Minor concerns
1) In the results section. I suggest avoiding typing the results that are already shown in the tables, it could help to summarize this section.

→ With respect for the reviewer’s kind suggestion, the results which were already mentioned in the tables were removed in the text of the results section.

Hiraku Kameda (Reviewer 2): In this paper, the authors investigated the association between gender and the prevalence of metabolic syndrome components including waist circumference, hypertension, and blood lipid/glucose levels, and the results suggests the effect of estrogen on the gender difference in MS components. This paper is generally well written and potentially attracts a clinical interest, but there is a bit room for improvement.

Comments
1. It is better to state how this study impacts on current care for metabolic syndrome, in other words, to elucidate the significance of this study.

→ With respect of the reviewer’s opinion, this point was added in the discussion section on line 7 – 10
“Since the studies on the associations between gender and the prevalence of MS components by age and BMI have been rarely implemented in Korea, it is meaningful in that this study could be utilized as a better knowledge on the development of health strategies for managing MS components according to gender.”

2. Regarding to the gender difference in low HDL and WC, how different cut off value of HDL and WC in gender affects the results?

   → With respect of the reviewer’s opinion, this point was updated in the first paragraph of the discussion section (from line 30 of page 6 to line 1 – 2 of page 7).

   “However, it should be noted that the definitions of low HDL level and high WC differ between men and women. Stricter definitions were set in women than in men, which may partially explain the higher prevalence rates of low HDL level and high WC found in women.”