Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association between lifestyle and thyroid dysfunction: a cross-sectional epidemiologic study in the She ethnic minority group of Fujian Province in China

Authors:

Yanling Huang (xmhuangyanling@163.com)
Liangchun Cai (116424605@qq.com)
Yuanyuan Zheng (175690701@qq.com)
Jinxing Pan (pjx091@163.com)
Liantao Li (liantao58@163.com)
Liyao Zong (815583417@qq.com)
Wei Lin (caolalin0929@163.com)
Jixing Liang (liangjixing@139.com)
Huibin Huang (hhb5182003@163.com)
Junping Wen (junpingwen@163.com)
Gang Chen (chengangfj@163.com)

Version: 2 Date: 27 May 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Prof Byrne,

Thank you for giving us another opportunity to further improve our manuscript "Association between lifestyle and thyroid dysfunction: a cross-sectional epidemiologic study in the She ethnic minority group of Fujian Province in China”. We are very pleased by the conditional acceptance. We have revised the manuscript to address the remaining concerns. Please see our response to specific comments below. Should you have any questions, please contact us without hesitation. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Yanling Huang
Response to the editor:

In the section “Ethics approval and consent to participate” in the Declarations, please give the reference numbers for the ethical approval.

Ethics approval reference number added as requested. See Page 17, “Ethics approval and consent to participate”.

Response to Bunzo MATSUURA (Reviewer 2):

The authors responded to the previous concerns. There are a few problems in the current contents. I know genetic factors affect lifestyle and lifestyle factors affect epigenetics. Among TPO positive participants, are there any differences of lifestyle factors between hypothyroid, euthyroid and hyperthyroid group? Also among TPO negative participants, are there any differences of lifestyle factors between hypothyroid, euthyroid and hyperthyroid group? The authors should mention these points.

We agree with the reviewer that it would be interesting to further stratify TPOAb positive and negative populations, respectively, into hypothyroid, euthyroid and hyperthyroid subgroups and investigate association of lifestyle factors with different thyroid diseases under different TPOAb status. These further investigations would undoubtedly refine our understandings of the interactions between lifestyle factors and TPOAb presentation in the blood in light of thyroid disease status, or vice versa, thus are potentially valuable in setting guidelines for lifestyle modification given different TPOAb presentation in the patients. However, such studies would require substantial further statistical design and analyses, thus are unfortunately beyond the scope of this manuscript. We nevertheless appreciate the reviewer's vision and suggestions, and have included additional discussions in this regard (Page 16 in the “Limitation of the study” section)