Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cholecystectomy versus central obesity or insulin resistance in relation to the risk of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: the third US National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

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Author’s response to reviews:

1. Funding.
   - In the “Funding” section of your declarations, please clarify the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

   Reply: The role of the funding body has been clarified by adding the following sentence: (line 335, page 16) “The funding body had no role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in the writing the manuscript. All errors are the authors alone.”

   - Commercial funding, such as that provided by Novo Nordisk, needs to be declared in the Competing Interests section as a conflict of interest.

   Reply: None of the authors was employed in Novo Nordisk. The Novo Nordisk company had no role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in the writing the manuscript. The relevant information has been added.

2. Title.
   - As this study is a secondary analysis, this should be stated in the manuscript title.

   Reply: The relevant information has been added.

3. Author contributions.
Please note that based on the current authors’ contributions section, the author TTD does not automatically qualify for authorship. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, writing of the manuscript or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not usually justify authorship. We ask that you ensure that author contributions are in line with the ICMJE guidelines (below), and that all listed authors have performed all four points specified below. An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have performed all 4 of the following points: A. Made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; B. Been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; C. Given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; and D. Agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. Please provide more information on individual author contributions and ensure author contributions listed in the authors contribution section are reflective of ICMJE guidelines. For any authorship changes, we request that a Change in Authorship form be filled out. The change in authorship form can be found from the link on the following page: https://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship All instructions can be found on the form, please treat the 'current authorship' section as the original authorship. Please return the form within 14 days with all author signatures (including those newly added/removed). Please also ensure that the relevant authors change the statements in column 4 of the signature table to reflect whether their name is being added/removed.

Reply: More information on individual author contributions was provided.

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- Thank you for providing an Availability of data and materials section. Unfortunately, the statement as written is not in an accepted format. Please change this statement to one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple datasets):

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- Please provide a Conclusions section within your manuscript.

Reply: The section has been added accordingly (line 307, page 14).

-Please add a Declarations heading, after the Abbreviations section and before the Ethics approval and consent to participate section.

Reply: The heading has been added accordingly (line 321, page 15).

-Please rename the Abbreviations section to List of abbreviations.
Reply: We had renamed this section (line 316, page 15).

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