Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association between benign thyroid disease and breast cancer: a single center experience

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Author’s response to reviews:

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Editorial Office
BMC Endocrine Disorders

After examination of your mail, we have revised the manuscript: “BEND-D-19-00145 - Association between benign thyroid disease and breast cancer: a single center experience” so that you consider a revised version of our paper for publication in the BMC Endocrine Disorders Journal. We are enclosing a new revised version of manuscript with details of how we have attended to each of the Editorial Office’ comments.

CHANGES:
Editor’s comments:

Because, in the text, there were language and spacing issues we revised the entire manuscript’s format. We corrected language and grammar errors.
The manuscript has now been revised with the help of a Professional English language teacher (Trieste, Italy).

Page 3, line 2, “ABSTRACT, Background” section. “Aim” was substitute with “The aim”

Page 3, line 8, “ABSTRACT, Methods” section. “Thyroid” was substitute with “thyroid”

Page 3, lines 18-29, “ABSTRACT, Results” section. The sentence “were more represented was substitute with” was replaced with “was more present”

Page 3, line 22-24, “ABSTRACT, Conclusions” section. The sentence “was in accordance with current Literature found a greater incidence of autoimmune thyroid disease in women with breast cancer in premenopausal age. BTD was more common in women than age≥60 years)” was substitute with “shows (was in accordance with current Literature founding) a greater incidence of autoimmune thyroid disease in women with breast cancer in premenopausal age in accordance with the current Literature. BTD was more common in women aged >= 60 (than age≥60 years)”

Page 4, line 1, “ABSTRACT, Conclusions” section. The sentence “presented at STAGE I” was substitute with “was present at STAGE I”

Page 4, line 2, “ABSTRACT, Conclusions” section. The sentence “represented” was substitute with “frequent”

Page 5, line 10, “TEXT, Background” section. “casual” was substitute with “causal”

Page 5, line 17, “TEXT, Methods” section. In the sentence.. “Data and clinical information were recorded from patient charts,“ we added “and from radiology and pathology reports. ..”

Page 6, line 5, “TEXT, Methods” section. The sentence: “According to inclusion and exclusion criteria, our cohort finally consisted of 793 patients.” was substitute with “Finally, according to these inclusion and exclusion criteria, our cohort consisted of 793 patients.”

Page 6, line 9, “TEXT, Methods” section – Data Analysis – Breast Cancer. “exist” was corrected in “exists”

Page 7, line 10, “TEXT, Methods” section - Data Analysis – Thyroid disease. “throw” was corrected in “through”. Page 7, line 16, “TEXT, Methods” section - Data Analysis – Thyroid disease. “suppressed” was added before “TSH”

Page 9, line 1, “TEXT, Results” section The sentence “(1%) (mean age 71 ± 12 years)” was substitute with “(1%, mean age 71 ± 12 years)“

Page 9, line 22, “TEXT, Results” section Correlation between menopausal status and thyroid disease, autoimmune thyroid disease or thyroid function: We specifies 17% of the patients.

Page 10, line 15, “TEXT, Results” section Correlation between breast cancer biological profile and thyroid disease, autoimmune thyroid disease or thyroid function.

Page 10, line 16, “TEXT, Results” section Correlation between breast cancer biological profile and thyroid disease, autoimmune thyroid disease or thyroid function. “associate” was replaced with “associated”

Page 11, line 1, “TEXT, Results” section Correlation between breast cancer staging and thyroid disease was replaced with “Table 2”

Page 11, line 3, “TEXT, Results” section Correlation between breast cancer staging and thyroid disease was replaced with “Table 2”

Page 11, line 12, “TEXT, Results” section Correlation between breast cancer staging and thyroid disease “were” was replaced with “was”

Page 11, line 19, “TEXT, Discussion” section
We added “well” before “known epidemiological”
Page 11, line 19, “TEXT, Discussion” section We added “the” after “among” and before “world”
Page 12, line 2, “TEXT, Discussion” section “found” was replaced with “find”
Page 12, line 15, “TEXT, Discussion” section “much” was replaced with “many”
Page 12, line 22, “TEXT, Discussion” section We added “the” after “according to” and before “.NCCN guidelines.”
Page 12, lines 24,25 – Page 13 lines 1-2, “TEXT, Discussion” section
The sentence ”An association with borderline statistical significance (p=0.05) was observed considering thyroid autoimmunity, with more autoimmune thyroiditis observed in pre-menopausal breast cancer patients (45% vs 29%).” Was rearranged as follow: “A difference with borderline statistical significance (p=0.05) was observed between pre- and post-menopausal women regarding autoimmune thyroiditis; pre-menopausal patients are more affected by this pathology (45% vs 29% of the post-menopausal breast cancer patients).”
Page 13, lines 2-3, “TEXT, Discussion” section “were” was replaced with “have been”
Page 13, line 4, “TEXT, Discussion” section “setting” was replaced with “state”
Page 13, line 5, “TEXT, Discussion” section “as” was replaced with “in”
Page 13, line 8, “TEXT, Discussion” section “yet” was replaced with “still”
Page 13, line 11, “TEXT, Discussion” section “with the evidence” was replaced with “giving evidence”
Page 13, line 12, “TEXT, Discussion” section We added “the” after “observed” and before “presence”
Page 13, line 14, “TEXT, Discussion” section “wasn’t” was replaced with “was not”
Page 13, lines 16-17, “TEXT, Discussion” section “which have, as it is well known, worse prognosis” was replaced with “as it is well known, are more aggressive”
Page 13, line 19, “TEXT, Discussion” section “observed” was replaced with “identified”
Page 14, line 1, “TEXT, Discussion” section “Concerning” was replaced with “Regarding”
Page 14, line 3, “TEXT, Discussion” section “Regarding” was replaced with “As to”
Page 14, line 6, “TEXT, Discussion” section
The sentence “This could indicate that reduced thyroid function predisposes to develop more advanced stage BC” was substitute with: “This could indicate that reduced thyroid function predisposes to develop a more advanced stage of BC.”
Page 14, line 9, “TEXT, Discussion” section “suggests” was replaced with “suggest”
Page 14, line 9, “TEXT, Discussion” section “may be represents” was replaced with “might represent”
Page 14, line 15, “TEXT, Discussion” section “were” was replaced with “was”
Page 14, line 16, “TEXT, Discussion” section
The sentence “while in other stage was not present” was substitute with “while in other stages it was not present”
Page 14, line 19, “TEXT, Discussion” section “stress” was replaced with “underline”
Page 14, line 20, “TEXT, Discussion” section
The sentence “this result may reinforce the hypothesis that a reduced thyroid function” was substitute with “this result may (be) reinforce(s) the hypothesis that a reduced thyroid function”
Page 14, line 23, “TEXT, Discussion” section
The sentence “thyroid cancer we found only 10 cases (1.3%), all women” was substituted with “Thyroid cancer we found only 10 cases (of patients) (1.3%), all women.”
Page 14, line 24, “TEXT, Discussion” section “Although our case series in this case is very small” was replaced with “Although this case series is very small”

Page 15, line 5, “TEXT, Discussion” section We added “an” after “that” and before “increased”

Page 15, line 7, “TEXT, Discussion” section “Anyway” was replaced with “However”

Page 15, lines 8-11, “TEXT, Discussion” section

The sentence “In the future we could investigate the precise pathological mechanisms that correlate the two pathologies also checking the presence of estrogenic receptors (ER) and progestin receptors (PR) on histology of thyroid carcinomas in order to identify possible subgroups of patients with higher risk of developing breast cancer” was substitute with “In the future we could investigate the precise pathological mechanisms that correlate the two pathologies also checking the presence of estrogenic receptors (ER) and progestin receptors (PR) on histology of thyroid carcinomas. In this way it could be possible to identify subgroups of patients with higher risk of developing breast cancer”

Page 15, lines 16-18, “TEXT, Conclusions” section

The sentence “Among women with BC and BTD, 55.2% of breast carcinomas presented at stage I and particularly hypothyroid function seemed to be associate with stage III, more aggressive breast cancers.” was substitute with “Among women with BC and BTD, 55.2% of breast carcinomas presented at stage I, in particular the hypothyroid function seemed to be associated with the more aggressive breast cancer stage III.”

Figure’s

Page 22, lines 18-19. As you recommended, all explanatory writing in figures are included in the figure legend and not within the figure.

Figure 1: Breast cancer molecular profile
Figure 2: Different breast cancer molecular profiles and their distribution according to menopausal status
Figure 3: Correlation between breast cancer grading and BTD

Regarding Figure 3, we added the explanations of abbreviations
G1: Grade 1
G2: Grade 2
G3: Grade 3

We thank the Editorial Board for the review report, which has helped us improve the quality of the manuscript. Thank you for your suggestions. I’m looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With best regards,

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