Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association of adiposity with thyroid nodules: a cross-sectional study of a healthy population in Beijing, China

Authors:
Huixia Yang (13691406852@163.com)
Hong Yu (13261627107@163.com)
Yu Zhong (972305968@qq.com)
Wei-hua Lv (596242659@qq.com)
Feng Zhang (302531717@qq.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor,

Thank you very much for your letter and advice. We have revised the manuscript, and would like to re-submit it for your consideration. We have addressed the comments raised by the reviewers, the amendments are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript. Point-by-point responses are listed below this letter.

This manuscript has been edited and proofread by professional English polishing company.

We hope that the revised version of the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in your journal.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Hong Yu
Corresponding author

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the reviewers for the constructive and positive comments.
Replies to Reviewer 1

1. The sentence "BMI is an easily accessible marker for defining general accumulation of adipose tissue" is not accurate. The BMI cannot provide direct information on the percentage of adiposity except indirectly. I therefore recommend changing the definition given while maintaining the same message.
Answer: Correction has been made in the revised version (Background, Page 3, Lines 55-56).

2. It could also be interesting to present in the discussion at least superficially the theoretical causes underlying the identified correlation.
Answer: Sure, thanks for your valuable recommendation. Correction has been made in the revised version (Discussion, Pages 9-10, Lines 198-203; Discussion, Page 10, Lines 206-210).

3. It might be useful to enter some information about the type of nodules found.
Answer: Correction has been made in the revised version (Results-Baseline characteristics, Page 8, Line 169; Figure 2; Methods-Definition of variables, Page 6, Lines 116-124).

4. It can also be useful to insert a graph to make the results more evident and immediate.
Answer: That’s a great idea! Thank you! We have revised the figure 1 and inserted a new Figure 2 to describe the ultrasonography characteristics of the thyroid nodules. Meanwhile, we changed the old Table 2 and Table 3 to Forest plots (Methods-Statistical analysis, Page 7, Lines 148-150; Figure 1; Figure 2; Figure 3; Figure 4).

Replies to Reviewer 2

1. Background: explain why the study on ref 12 did not find relationship (differences among other studies)
Answer: Correction has been made in the revised version (Background, Page 3, Lines 62-66).

2. Methods: which questionnaire did you use? Was it validated?
Answer: We used a questionnaire which had been validated by Bin Song et al in their study. Thank you for your important reminder! Correction has been made in the revised version (Methods-Data Collection, Page 5, Lines 99-100).

3. Why you do not defined (as for other part of your study) overweight and obesity with WHO classification? It could be useful to correct this and make correction of your data.
Answer: Correction has been made in the revised version (Abstract, Page 2; Methods-Definition of variables, Page 6, Lines 126-127; Results-Baseline characteristics, Page 8, Lines 162-163; Results-Associations of TNs with BMI and VFA, Page 9, Lines 177-180; Results-Subgroup analyses on gender, age, FBG and TG, Page 9, Lines 188-190; Discussion, Page 10, Line 220; Table 1; Figure 3; Figure 4).
4. Define better the type of TNs you found, in size, echogenicity and echostructure.
Answer: Correction has been made in the revised version (Methods-Definition of variables, Page 6, Lines 116-124; Results-Baseline characteristics, Page 8, Line 169; Figure 2).