Author’s response to reviews

Title: Vitamin D receptor and binding protein polymorphisms in women with polycystic ovary syndrome: a case control study

Authors:

Do Kyeong Song (dksong@ewha.ac.kr; sdkhope@hanmail.net)
Hyejin Lee (hyejinlee@ewha.ac.kr)
Young Sun Hong (imhys@ewha.ac.kr)
Yeon-Ah Sung (yasung@ewha.ac.kr)

Version: 2 Date: 20 Oct 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

BEND-D-19-00323R1

Vitamin D receptor and binding protein polymorphisms in women with polycystic ovary syndrome: a case control study

Do Kyeong Song; Hyejin Lee; Young Sun Hong; Yeon-Ah Sung
BMC Endocrine Disorders

Dear Dr. Song,

Your manuscript "Vitamin D receptor and binding protein polymorphisms in women with polycystic ovary syndrome: a case control study" (BEND-D-19-00323R1) has been assessed by our reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Endocrine Disorders, once you have carried out some essential revisions suggested by our reviewers.

Their reports, together with any other comments, are below. Please also take a moment to check our website at https://www.editorialmanager.com/bend/ for any additional comments that were saved as attachments. Please note that as BMC Endocrine Disorders has a policy of open peer review, you will be able to see the names of the reviewers.

Once you have made the necessary corrections, please submit a revised manuscript online at: https://www.editorialmanager.com/bend/

If you have forgotten your password, please use the 'Send Login Details' link on the login page at https://www.editorialmanager.com/bend/. For security reasons, your password will be reset.
A point-by-point response letter must accompany your revised manuscript. This letter must provide a detailed response to each reviewer/editorial point raised, describing exactly what amendments have been made to the manuscript text and where these can be viewed (e.g. Methods section, line 12, page 5). If you disagree with any comments raised, please provide a detailed rebuttal to help explain and justify your decision.

At this stage, we ask that you submit a clean version of your manuscript and do not include track changes or highlighting.

Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style, which can be found at the Submission Guidelines on the journal homepage.

Please note, if your manuscript is accepted you will not be able to make any changes to the authors, or order of authors, of your manuscript once the editor has accepted your manuscript for publication. If you wish to make any changes to authorship before you resubmit your revisions, please reply to this email and ask for a 'Request for change in authorship' form which should be completed by all authors (including those to be removed) and returned to this email address. Please ensure that any changes in authorship fulfil the criteria for authorship as outlined in BioMed Central's editorial policies (http://www.biomedcentral.com/about/editorialpolicies#authorship).

Once you have completed and returned the form, your request will be considered and you will be advised whether the requested changes will be allowed.

By resubmitting your manuscript you confirm that all author details on the revised version are correct, that all authors have agreed to authorship and order of authorship for this manuscript and that all authors have the appropriate permissions and rights to the reported data.

Please be aware that we may investigate, or ask your institute to investigate, any unauthorised attempts to change authorship or discrepancies in authorship between the submitted and revised versions of your manuscript.

A decision will be made once we have received your revised manuscript, which we expect by 27 Oct 2019.

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Giovanna Muscogiuri

BMC Endocrine Disorders
https://bmcendocrdisord.biomedcentral.com/
Technical Comments:

Editor Comments:

BMC Endocrine Disorders operates a policy of open peer review, which means that you will be able to see the names of the reviewers who provided the reports via the online peer review system. We encourage you to also view the reports there, via the action links on the left-hand side of the page, to see the names of the reviewers.

Reviewer reports:

Flavio Cadegiani, MD, MSc, PhD (Reviewer 1): I congratulate authors for the improvements in their manuscript, particularly in the background and discussion. The manuscript is now almost ready to be accepted. I am raising one specific point, as this is meaningful for the profile of selected women with PCOS:

(Previous comments) Lines 105-107: the most accepted criteria for PCOS is the Rotterdam criteria. The NIH criteria has been known to underdiagnose PCOS, since it requires both disturbance of menstrual cycles and hyperandrogenism, while up to 10-15% of PCOS women have regular periods, and that not all express hyperandrogenism. Did the authors also perform the diagnosis using any other criteria?

(Authors response) -> As you commented, definition and diagnosis of PCOS are still controversial. Because women with hypothalamic amenorrhea can be classified as PCOS according to Rotterdam criteria, we defined PCOS according to NIH criteria.

(Current comment) I do agree with the authors regarding the false positive diagnosis for PCOS. However, besides the fact that hypothalamic amenorrhea is uncommon in women with normal weight and non-extremely hypocaloric diets, the NIH criteria also has some important flaws, and the Rotterdam criteria tends to be more widely accepted (although as a scientist I fully agree that none of these diagnostic criteria properly diagnose PCOS - not even the name is fully appropriate). Please include in the discussion section why the NIH criteria, and not the Rotterdam, was employed.

-> Thank you for your kind comments.

In an adolescent girl, diagnosis of PCOS is suggested basing on the presence of hyperandrogenism in the presence of persistent oligomenorrhea because anovulatory symptoms and polycystic ovarian morphology may be present in normal stages in reproductive maturation. And it is possible that hypothalamic amenorrhea can be classified as PCOS according to the Rotterdam criteria, although it is not common. Therefore, we used the NIH criteria which was not widely accepted for diagnosing PCOS. Differences of criteria for diagnosing PCOS may affect the differences of the results about the associations of the VDR gene and VDBP gene
polymorphisms with PCOS susceptibility. We inserted these sentences in the discussion section (page 14-15, line 305-313).

Abdul Basit (Reviewer 2): No

If improvements to the English language within your manuscript have been requested, you should have your manuscript reviewed by someone who is fluent in English. If you would like professional help in revising this manuscript, you can use any reputable English language editing service. We can recommend our affiliates Nature Research Editing Service (http://bit.ly/NRES_BS) and American Journal Experts (http://bit.ly/AJE_BS) for help with English usage. Please note that use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of publication. Free assistance is available from our English language tutorial (https://www.springer.com/gb/authors-editors/authorandreviewertutorials/writinginenglish) and our Writing resources (http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/writing-resources). These cover common mistakes that occur when writing in English.

----------------------Editorial Policies----------------------

Please read the following information and revise your manuscript as necessary. If your manuscript does not adhere to our editorial requirements this will cause a delay whilst the issue is addressed. Failure to adhere to our policies may result in rejection of your manuscript.

In accordance with BioMed Central editorial policies and formatting guidelines, all submissions to BMC Endocrine Disorders must have a Declarations section which includes the mandatory sub-sections listed below. Please refer to the journal's Submission Guidelines webpage for information regarding the criteria for each sub-section (https://bmcendocrdisord.biomedcentral.com/).

Where a mandatory section is not relevant to your study design or article type, for example, if your manuscript does not contain any individual persons data, please write "Not applicable" in these sections.

For the 'Availability of data and materials' section, please provide information about where the data supporting your findings can be found. We encourage authors to deposit their datasets in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate), or to be presented within the manuscript and/or additional supporting files. Please note that identifying/confidential patient data should not be shared. Authors who do not wish to share their data must state that data will not be shared, and provide reasons for this in the manuscript text. For further guidance on how to format this section, please refer to BioMed Central's editorial policies page - http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#availability+of+data+and+materials.
Declarations

- Ethics approval and consent to participate
- Consent to publish
- Availability of data and materials
- Competing interests
- Funding
- Authors' Contributions
- Acknowledgements
- Authors' Information

Recipients of this email are registered users within the Editorial Manager database for this journal. We will keep your information on file to use in the process of submitting, evaluating and publishing a manuscript. For more information on how we use your personal details please see our privacy policy at https://www.springernature.com/production-privacy-policy. If you no longer wish to receive messages from this journal or you have questions regarding database management, please contact the Publication Office at the link below.

In compliance with data protection regulations, you may request that we remove your personal registration details at any time. (Use the following URL: https://www.editorialmanager.com/bend/login.asp?a=r). Please contact the publication office if you have any questions.