Author’s response to reviews

Title: High normal TSH is associated with lower mannan-binding lectin in women of reproductive age

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Version: 3 Date: 08 Nov 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to resubmit the paper entitled “High normal TSH is associated with lower mannan-binding lectin in women of childbearing age” (Ms. Ref. No.: BEND-D-19-00064R2).

According to the Editor's remarks, which we found to be very helpful, we have introduced changes to the first version of the manuscript. The changes are specified below.

Editor Comments

1. In the abstract it currently reads "aged 1848 years". If this is intended to read 18-48, please amend this.

We would like to apologize for this mistake; thus, we have replaced “1848” by “18-48”.

2. Please add a “Conclusions” section after the “Discussion” section. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research article and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.

As the Editor suggested we have added a “Conclusions” section containing all the information’s requested (page 7, lines 30-34).
3. Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case.

We have included the requested statement (page 9, line 18).

4. Please move the figure legends to after the references.

According to the Editor's suggestion we have moved the figure legends to after the references.

5. We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:

Page 3 lines 27-30, page 5 lines 4-7 and 19-21, table II:

Karbownik-Lewinska, Małgorzata, et al. "TSH≥ 2.5 mIU/l is associated with the increased oxidative damage to membrane lipids in women of childbearing age with normal thyroid tests." Hormone and Metabolic Research 49.05 (2017): 321-326.

We have made suggested changes:

- page 3, lines 27-31
- page 5, lines 8-11 and 24-28

Concerning Table II, it is really similar to that one published before and differs only by one additional variable, i.e. MBL level. However, in our opinion it would be unreasonable to change artificially this table. In opposite, it is reasonable to use the same scheme of statistical analysis to highlight the statistical significance of this additional parameter and to make possible comparison between papers easier. Therefore, we have added a kind of explanation in the Results section (page 5, lines 31-34) to justify this apparent overlapping. However, if the Editor still wishes we modified this table, we are willing to do this in the next revision.

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work.

If there is overlap in the Methods section, please ensure to summarize the methods and cite the source.

Please re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap.

We agree with the Editor's suggestion. Therefore, we have done our best to avoid overlapping of the text (page 4, lines 9-11; 22-23; 25-31).
We hope that in this revised form our paper may be considered for publication in BMC Endocrine Disorders.

We thank you in advance for your editorial consideration and we are looking forward to receiving your decision concerning this revised manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Małgorzata Karbownik-Lewińska M.D., Ph.D.