Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of serum zinc levels in patients with recurrent aphthous stomatitis (RAS)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Once again we appreciate the efforts by the editor and referees in reviewing this manuscript. We have addressed the suggestions indicated in the second review report.

Response to Comments from Sergio E. Uribe, PhD., MSc., DDS (Reviewer 3)

Comment 1:

Page 6 line 148: change "Chi-square test was used to assess the association..." to "Chi-square test was used to assess the independence of variables between...". Since x2 test doesn't assume a direction of the association, instead just the independence, something that may result in an association.

Response:

As indicated, we have changed the sentence in accordance to the Reviewer’s comment (Page 6 line 148).

Comment 2:

Indicate the power of the selected sample size (...) This issue must be addressed in the manuscript, since low power, by definition, means that the chance of discovering effects that are genuinely true is low. That is, low-powered studies produce more false negatives than high-powered studies. This low power can explain the result of this research. Even if other research use a small sample, this is no reason to not add the power calculation of the present research.
Response:

We greatly appreciate the reviewer’s comment. As suggested we have indicated the power of the selected sample size calculated in Statistica 10, StatSoft®. We have presented the power of tests comparing the results of mean serum zinc between RAS and controls and between RAS subgroups defined in the study protocol (Page 7 line 192).

We also addressed the problem of the low test power in the Conclusions section (Page 10 lines 265-267).