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 BMC editors in reviewing this manuscript. We have addressed the suggestions contained in the review report.

Response to the Comments from the Editorial Office

1: As suggested in the report, we have modified the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section. We have clarified that in the case of children under 16 years of age the informed written consent to participate in the study was obtained from their parents/guardians. In addition, minors able to give assent (over 10 years old) also provided a written consent (“Ethics approval and consent to participate” section, page 10, lines 286-290).

2. The phrase “project of the study” was replaced with “the study” in the section devoted to the Ethics Committee consent. The local Ethics Committee approved our entire study, not just the initial project (“Ethics approval and consent to participate” section, page 10, line 289).

3. As indicated, we have provided additional justification for the BDB’s authorship (Authors’ contributions section, page 11, lines 305-306).

4. We have indicated which member of the dental team was responsible for the examination of the study participants (ZS) (Methods section, page 5, line 135).
All the authors are dentists (DDS). B. Dorocka-Bobkowska is the dentist (DDS) with medical degree (MD) and the Head of the Department of Oral Pathology.

5. The list of abbreviations is provided before the Declaration section (page 10, lines 272-283).

6. We have removed the raw data from the supplementary files section as suggested. We have modified the sentence referring to the accessibility of the data on request (page 11, 295-296).

7. We do not wish to include the "zinc statistics" file in the published manuscript.

8. The email addresses of all the authors are provided on the title page.

9. We have removed the typo on page 5; we have carefully checked the manuscript for other typos once again.

10. Additionally, we would like to inform that since the new academic year the official name of our Department was changed from the Department of Oral Mucosa Diseases into the Department of Gerodontology and Oral Pathology. The suitable correction was therefore implemented on the title page.

We hope these improvements will fulfill the requirements of the BMC Oral Health Editorial Office.

Best regards,

Zuzanna Ślebioda