Author’s response to reviews

Title: Vitamin D Metabolites Across the Menstrual Cycle: A Systematic Review

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer 1

Comment 1:

“It is an interesting topic, although I think it would be best to know the influence of the levels of estradiol and progesterone throughout the cycle on 25-OH-Vitamin D. The latter, could not be determined.”

Author’s response:

We have added to the discussion to mention the one study we identified which examines the relationship between levels of progesterone and 25(OH)D (lines 230-234). We agree that examining the relationship between vitamin D and key reproductive hormones would be informative however it was not possible to do so in the context of this review.

Comment 2:

“And the fact is that the number of studies and cases is small, for that reason I think that it has not been possible to reach a definitive conclusion.”

Author’s response:

We appreciate your comment. For this revision, we updated our systematic review and found one additional study has been published that is now added (see updates throughout the manuscript text and Table 1). The small number of studies is still discussed as a limitation, with a call for more research in this area.
Comment 3:

“It would be interesting to see if there is any difference in age between the studied population, with groups of 18 to 35 years, and 36 to 47 years.”

Author’s response:

We agree that it would be helpful to see if there is any differences between younger and older women in changes in vitamin D metabolites across the menstrual cycle. None of the studies reviewed in this manuscript examined differences between age groups, only across or within phases of the menstrual cycle. Some studies had a narrow age range (18-35 years) while others included a wide age range (20-47 years), but none were focused on older women to allow a comparison.

Reviewer 2

No comments received; response of “accept without revision”

Author’s response:

We thank you for this positive response and appreciate your review.