Author’s response to reviews

Title: Novel equation to determine the hepatic triglyceride concentration in humans by MRI: diagnosis and monitoring of NAFLD in obese patients before and after bariatric surgery

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Version: 3
Date: 23 July 2014

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the revised version of our manuscript #3094298201279725 entitled “Novel equation to determine the hepatic triglyceride concentration in humans by MRI: diagnosis and monitoring of NAFLD in obese patients before and after bariatric surgery” by Jiménez-Agüero R, Emparanza JI, Beguiristain A, Bujanda L, Alustiza JM, García E, Hijona E, Gallego L, Sánchez J, Perugorria MJ, Asensio JI, Larburu S, Garmendia M, Larzabal M, Portillo MP, Aguirre L and Banales JM, which is resubmitted for its consideration for publication in BMC Medicine.

We greatly appreciate the Reviewers’ and Editor’s positive comments. Moreover, we believe we have adequately addressed each concern raised by Reviewer #1 and Editor, responding point-by-point to their comments and carrying out the required changes in the text (please find bellow the responses to Editor and Reviewer). For ease of review, all changes are presented underlined and in blue color in the revised version.

Thank you in advance for considering our manuscript.

Sincerely,

Jesus M. Banales, Ph.D.

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RESPONSES TO EDITOR AND REVIEWER #1:

Peer Reviewer Comments (Editor)

(1) Add a statement to the author contribution section that all the authors read and approved the final manuscript. See the link for instructions: http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/authors/instructions/researcharticle#formatting-contributions. Please can you also comment on point 4 of the author contributions on accountability.

As required, we have stated in the manuscript the authors contribution according to the *BMC Medicine* guidelines.

(2) Move the abbreviation section to the correct part of the manuscript. See instructions at the link: http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/authors/instructions/researcharticle#formatting-abbreviations

The list of abbreviations is now preceding the “competing interests” and “authors´ contributions” sections.

Peer reviewer #1: Prof. Joost P Drenth

Reviewer’s report:

Version: 2

Date: 21 July 2014

Reviewer: Joost P Drenth

Reviewer’s report:

NOVEL EQUATION TO DETERMINE THE HEPATIC TRIGLYCERIDE CONCENTRATION IN HUMANS BY MRI: DIAGNOSIS AND MONITORIZATION OF NAFLD IN OBESE PATIENTS BEFORE AND AFTER BARIATRIC SURGERY by Jiménez-Agüero et al.

This is a revised version of this manuscript. I appreciate the efforts the authors have made in improving the style and content of the paper. My review contained 2 major issues.

The formal use of the “Statement STAndards for the Reporting of Diagnostic accuracy studies” is fine as it discusses the elements much more explicit.

The use of a gold standard for measurement of the hepatic fat content (Folch method). I thank the authors for addressing this issue and adding the reference.

We appreciate these positive comments and thank reviewer #1 for his thoughtful remarks and suggestions that have considerably improved the manuscript.
I have one minor issue. The authors cite that

Please list multi-echo MRI in your methods. The methods now only mentions the MRI method.

These required changes have been now performed

In addition, the costs of MRI vary greatly depending on the health care system. The cited price (180 E) is perhaps the list price in Spain, but I am pretty sure that this will not get you a MRI in Germany, Belgium, Sweden, or UK.

We appreciate this comment, and have now stated in the discussion section that “MRI costs usually are not as much of those resulting from the Folch technique, which include ultrasound-guided liver biopsy and the triglyceride measurement. However, these costs may vary between different hospitals and countries.”