Author’s response to reviews

Title: Parameters of ovarian reserve in relation to urinary concentrations of parabens.

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Answer to Reviewers:

Associate Editor's Comments:

This manuscript is improved from the first submission, and I feel that the authors are moving closer toward a publishable manuscript. However, Reviewer 3 raises important points that must be addressed before this manuscript can be considered. Please specifically consider the Reviewer's comments about how to improve the material presented in the discussion, and how to improve the presentation of data, especially in tables. The Reviewer asks if all tables are necessary, and if they are making the point clearly that the authors intend. Please give this serious thought. The Reviewer also raises concerns about language, mis-matches between the text and the abstract, and the formatting of citations. Please take care to attend to each of these details before resubmitting.

Answer: The revision of the article was based on Reviewers comments and suggestions. All comments have been included in the revised version of the manuscript. The presentation of the data and Tables have been changed according to the Reviewer suggestions. One table has been removed according to the Reviewer suggestions.
All changes in the manuscript have been done using the “track changes”. Additionally, The English grammar and language has been corrected by the native speaker but also by professional
Reviewer #1: Authors have addressed my comments

Reviewer #3: Reviewer’s Report
ENHE-D-19-00047R2
Title: Parameters of ovarian reserve in relation to urinary concentrations of parabens
Comments to Author
The manuscript has improved but still needs a thorough review in some aspects. Aspects of writing should be reviewed. For example, abbreviations should be indicated the first time they appear in the text and then must be used. The abbreviation cannot appear in some paragraphs and in others the complete term. The same structure should be followed throughout the document.
Answer: Abbreviations were indicated the first time they appear in the text and then were used throughout the document.

The citation format should be reviewed in the text. In some places it appears with the year in brackets, in others without brackets and in others the year does not appear. Review carefully how to cite authors in text according to the journal rules.
The manuscript should be carefully reviewed so that it can be published.
Answer: The manuscript has been carefully reviewed and the citation format adjusted to the journal requirements.

I also ask the authors to review certain points listed below.

Abstract
1) The most relevant results should appear in the results section. Check.
Answer: The most relevant results have appeared in the results section.

2) Conclusions. The conclusions of abstract cannot be different to the manuscript. Check.
Answer: The conclusions in the abstract have been changed to be similar to that in the manuscript.

Manuscript

Background
3) Lines 64-65: Improve the citation in the text. You should be used the same structure in all text. Here the year appears without parenthesis. In Line 80 and 87 appears with parenthesis. Check all manuscript.
Answer: The manuscript has been carefully reviewed and the citation format adjusted to the journal requirements.
4) Line 85-86: "………[14]. Decreased odds of live bird was observed only after exposure to methyl paraben [14]". Repeated reference. Keep the second one.
Answer: One of the reference has been removed.

Methods
5) Lines 116-119: Who conducted the interview? How the questions were asked? (open, closed, check list)
Answer: The information about demographics, socio-economic status, stress (life and occupational stress), medical history, lifestyle factors (smoking, alcohol consumption, diet, physical activity) and occupational exposures (physical and chemical exposure) were collected using nurse-administered questionnaire at entry into the study. The questions were both open and closed. This information has been added to the manuscript.

6) Line 147: "….characteristics (age, past diseases, alcohol consumption, duration of infertility that may be…". Missing in brackets.
Answer: The brackets have been added.

7) Line 141: Urinary parabens measurements. Line 155: Justify this methodology with reference. Answer: The reference has been added.

8) Lines 156-177: Review abbreviations and nomenclature. Line 174: "..were used: 224 and 209,…" Why underlined? Check all.
Answer: The ions with specific m/z value were used for quantitative analysis and they are underlined. Remaining ions (not underlined) were monitored for qualitative purposes. In the next sentence there is an explanation: “The underlined ions were utilized for quantitative analysis.” This form of presentation is commonly used in the methodological reports on analytical methods.

9) Line 192: What protocol? How many people participated in the sample collection? They were formed? Explain.
Answer: This is the information that all urine samples were collected from the participants based on the same rules described in the urinary parabens measurements. But as that sentence can be misleading it has been removed.

10) Line 218: ""…R statistical software (ver.3)…” . Add program version data (Example: version 3.6.1). Check all document.
Answer: The version of the program has been added.

Results
11) Table 1. Recommendation: Delete third column and include the information in the text or in the first column.
Answer: Third column in the Table 1 has been removed.

12) Lines 224-225: Attention to this, non smokers (92.17%). In the data collection was the variable of being ex-smoker contemplated? Only current smoking? Possible biased data. Explain.
Answer: The information in the manuscript is correct. The Table has been corrected. We collected the information about smoking in general, not only current smoking.
13) Lines 230-232: Repeated (Table 2). Only the second one is necessary. Answer: The sentence has been corrected.

14) Lines 235-239: Repeated (Table 3). Unnecessary in line 239. Answer: The sentence has been corrected.

15) Line 244: (Table 4) Is this a mistake?. The data discussed corresponds to Table 3. Answer: The sentence has been corrected. It is Table 3.

16) Line 245: "mean concentration of the sum of parabens was 19.99 nmol/ml.". Where does the data come from? Does not appear in any table. Clarify. Answer: The sentence has been corrected. It should be 16.99 nmol/ml.

17) Table 4. The table is not clear. The presentation of the table should be reviewed and changed by reorganizing the data. Change format. Answer: The Table 4 format has been changed.

18) Table 5. Recommendation format. I think the information is clearer and more visual. (Coef.) Use standard abbreviation. Is it correct? Review in Table 6 too. Check all. Parabens coef (S1-S2) p 
   MP       0.31  0.001 
   EP       0.32  <0.001 
   PP       0.39  <0.001 
   iBuP     No detected  
   BP       0.08  0.39 
Answer: The Table 5 has been changed.

19). Line 258: Delete (Table 6). Repeated in line 260. Answer: The sentence has been corrected.

20) Table 6. Coef?? Is this the standard abbreviation?? Clarify and check. Answer: Coef is a standard abbreviation and tell us about the direction of the associations.

21) Table 7. Check the same. Answer: Coef is a standard abbreviation and tell us about the direction of the associations.

22) I still think that the data should be better selected. Assess if all tables are necessary. Answer: One table-Table 6 was linked with Table 7. So all the continuous variables and categorical variable are now in one table- Table 6.

Discussion
The discussion should deal with the results obtained and their comparison with other studies. There are paragraphs that do not apply. Review wording and rewrite for clarity. Answer: The Discussion Section is now associated with obtained results and has been rewritten.

The phrase of the line 332 (" …..this is the first study to assesses…..) is repeated.
Review the correct use of abbreviations in the text.
Answer: The sentence has been changed.

The conclusions of the manuscript must coincide with those of the abstract. Check.
Answer: The Conclusions are now similar to that in Abstract.

References
23) Reference should be in the format of the journal. Check 21 and 26.
Answer: The references 21 and 26 have been corrected.