Author’s response to reviews

Title: Familial aggregation and socio-demographic correlates of taste preferences in European children

Authors:
Hannah Jilani (jilani@leibniz-bips.de)
Timm Intemann (temann@leibniz-bips.de)
Leonie Bogl (leonie-helen.bogl@helsinki.fi)
Gabriele Eiben (gabriele.eiben@medfak.gu.se)
Dénes Molnar (molnar.denes@pte.hu)
Luis Moreno (lmoreno@unizar.es)
Valeria Pala (valeria.pala@istitutotumori.mi.it)
Paola Russo (prusso@isa.cnr.it)
Alfonso Siani (asiani@isa.cnr.it)
Antonia Solea (toniasolea@yahoo.com)
Toomas Veidebaum (toomas.veidebaum@tai.ee)
Wolfgang Ahrens (ahrens@leibniz-bips.de)
Antje Hebestreit (hebestreit@leibniz-bips.de)

Version: 4 Date: 03 Oct 2017

Author’s response to reviews:
Thank you very much for this suggestion. Unfortunately we do not have data on pubertal status for all study participants, but in a sub-sample (n=7123 children). Using information on breaking of the voice (for boys) and onset of menarche (for girls), a proportion of 84% of children classified as pubertal were ≥12 years old and only 11% of children classified as pubertal were <12 years.
In an even smaller sub-sample (n=5286) we have information available for Tanner stages according to pubic hair (for boys) and breast development (for girls). According to this measurement 97% of prepubertal children were <12 years and 95% of pubertal children were ≥12 years old.
We therefore assume that the cut-off of 12 years seems to be reasonable. Furthermore, we also aim at reflecting social aspects rather than biological factors of taste preference. Therefore, this age cut-off to our opinion seems well suited. We hope the reviewer agrees.

We moved the explanation for our cut-off to the description of our study group and added this section as suggested by you (lines 54-66):

“The large sample size of the I.Family study allowed conducting age-group specific analyses. Therefore, for the analysis the children were divided in boys <12 years, girls <12 years, boys ≥12 years, girls ≥12 years. The cut-off of 12 years was chosen because children 12 years and older are entering adolescence and therefore other factors like peers and growing independency might influence taste preferences whereas smaller children are more dependent on their parents with regard to food availability. The cut-off of 12 years seems reasonable not only for these social aspects but also for biological aspects. In a sub-sample of children (n=7123 children) information on breaking of the voice (for boys) and onset of menarche (for girls) was available. According to these characteristics a proportion of 84% of children classified as pubertal were ≥12 years old and 11% of children classified as pubertal were <12 years. In an even smaller sub-sample (n=5286) information for Tanner stages according to pubic hair (for boys) and breast development (for girls) was available. According to these characteristics 97% of prepubertal children were <12 years and 95% of pubertal children were ≥12 years old.