

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Diabetes*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 21904

**Manuscript Type:** REVIEW

**Diabetes in migrants and ethnic minorities in a changing World**

Montesi L *et al.* Diabetes in migrants

**Point-by-point to reviewers' comments**

*Thanks to the Editor and the Reviewers for their appreciation of our work. A point-by-point response to their comments is included. In the text, the most important changes have been underlined to expedite revision.*

*We hope that the manuscript will be accepted in its present form*

**1)** Montesi et al. reviewed the situation of migration and diabetes mellitus in migrants of various populations. Diabetes prevalences in migrants vs. native populations or populations in the countries of origin were also discussed. In many subgroups of migrants, the diabetic prevalence was higher than that of native populations, and diabetic patients may be undertreated due to several reasons. I have a few comments as follows:

- In the "Disease convergence" section, please **add references** for these statements "Genetic factors may also be important. They might contribute to the higher prevalence of diabetes among South Asians and to the higher rates of hypertension among West African migrants"

- We added references to this statement, as derived from the literature. The paragraph has been expanded to clarify this concept.

- Have the authors come across evidence related to physical activity, exercise, and **modifiable factors** (such as smoking, alcohol, or diabetogenic factor exposure) that contribute to higher risk of diabetes in migrants?

- We added a paragraph on the assessment of modifiable factors in migrants, as derived from the literature. Overall, the literature confirms that physical activity and other modifiable factors may be remarkably different between native population and migrants.

**2)** Given the massive migration, this interesting review, is aimed at pinpointing the problems arising in the worldwide prevention and treatment of diabetes, with specific reference to countries where they have been more extensively investigated, as a support to healthcare systems in the provision of effective interventions. Comments **The Aim of study should be clearly stated in the Abstract** section

- The aim of the study (of the review) had been more clearly defined

I would be desirable a **Figure showing the rates of obesity and diabetes prevalence in migrants populations and in host countries as well as prevalence rates of diabetes complications** among ethnic minority groups compared with prevalence in locally born residents

- The reviewer raises a very interesting point. To make a comparison of prevalence rates of obesity, diabetes and diabetes complications between migrants and native populations of the host countries would be extremely interesting, but would lead to a set of rough estimates not reflecting/unrepresentative of the actual situation. We have extensively searched the literature, but it is nearly impossible to have a complete picture of the situation, considering the age difference between migrants and the population resident in the original country, as well as the great variability existing between different ethnic minorities, with their specific cultural habits and their own genetic background, moving and setting up in different countries and environments. We cannot provide a reasonable figure for the overall complexity of the problem.

**3) Please offer the website in references**

- Done as requested

*In addition, we reformulated the text in several parts, to be sure it does no longer duplicate the text from other sources. Anyway, considering the character of the manuscript (review) it is logical to admit that a few similarities may exist*

December 13, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 21904-review.doc).

**Title:** Diabetes in migrants and ethnic minorities in a changing World

**Author:** Luca Montesi, Maria Turchese Caletti, Giulio Marchesini

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Diabetes*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 21904

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Format has been updated

2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Montesi et al. reviewed the situation of migration and diabetes mellitus in migrants of various populations. Diabetes prevalences in migrants vs. native populations or populations in the countries of origin were also discussed. In many subgroups of migrants, the diabetic prevalence was higher than that of native populations, and diabetic patients may be undertreated due to several reasons. I have a few comments as follows:

- In the "Disease convergence" section, please **add references** for these statements "Genetic factors may also be important. They might contribute to the higher prevalence of diabetes among South Asians and to the higher rates of hypertension among West African migrants"

- We added references to this statement, as derived from the literature. The paragraph has been expanded to clarify this concept.

- Have the authors come across evidence related to physical activity, exercise, and **modifiable factors** (such as smoking, alcohol, or diabetogenic factor exposure) that contribute to higher risk of diabetes in migrants?

- We added a paragraph on the assessment of modifiable factors in migrants, as derived from the literature. Overall, the literature confirms that physical activity and other modifiable factors may be remarkably different between native population and migrants.

(2) Given the massive migration, this interesting review, is aimed at pinpointing the problems arising in the worldwide prevention and treatment of diabetes, with specific reference to countries where they have been more extensively investigated, as a support to healthcare systems in the provision of effective interventions. Comments **The Aim of study should be clearly stated in the Abstract** section

- The aim of the study (of the review) had been more clearly defined

I would be desirable a **Figure showing the rates of obesity and diabetes prevalence in migrants populations and in host countries as well as prevalence rates of diabetes complications** among ethnic minority groups compared with prevalence in locally born residents

- The reviewer raises a very interesting point. To make a comparison of prevalence rates of obesity, diabetes and diabetes complications between migrants and native populations of the host countries would be extremely interesting, but would lead to a set of rough estimates not reflecting/unrepresentative of the actual situation. We have extensively searched the literature, but it is nerly impossible to have a complete picture of the situation, considering the age difference between migrants and the population resident in the original country, as well as the great variability existing between different ethnic minorities, with their specific cultural habits and their own genetic background, moving and setting up in different countries and environments. We cannot provide a reasonable figure for the overall

complexity of the problem.

(3) We reformulated the text in several parts, to be sure it does no longer duplicate the text from other sources. Anyway, considering the charater of the manuscript (review) it is logical to admit that a few similarities may exist

**3. References, websites and typesetting were corrected**

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Diabetes*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Giulio Marchesini', written on a light-colored background.

Giulio Marchesini, MD, PhD

Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences S.Orsola-Malpighi Hospita  
"Alma Mater Studiorum" University

Bologna, Via Massarenti n°9

I-40138, Italy

Telephone: +39-051-2144889

Fax: +39-051-6364502

E-mail: [giulio.marchesini@unibo.it](mailto:giulio.marchesini@unibo.it)

## Response letter

-Conflict of interest Statement:

You will find the Conflict of interest Statement as attachment.

-More details address, such as street or avenue, in the Correspondence to:

“Alma Mater Studiorum” University, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences  
S.Orsola-Malpighi Hospital, Via Massarenti n°9, I-40138 Bologna, Italy. [giulio-  
marchesini@unibo.it](mailto:giulio-marchesini@unibo.it)

-Audio core tip:

You will find the Audio core tip with the specific requirements as attachment.

-Figure 2:

You will find the decomposable figure, whose parts are movable and words can be edited, as attachment.

