

REVIEWER 1

In this study, the authors investigated the rate of matrix Gla-protein carboxylation in patients with small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO) and its association with subclinical atherosclerosis. According their results, patients affected by SIBO had higher levels of inactive MGP and an increased arterial stiffness. This condition was not influenced by vitamin K2 intake from diet. These results suggest that bacteria are the main source of vitamin K2 in humans, and that vitamin K2 metabolism may be altered as a consequence of small intestinal dysbiosis. This manuscript is well written, and is certainly the first which investigates the consequences of vitamin K2 metabolism derangement on MGP activity in patients with SIBO. There is no additional requirement for publication.

We thank the reviewer for having appreciated the originality of our manuscript.

REVIEWER 2

In this manuscript the authors have assessed the role of matrix Gla-protein carboxylation in patients with small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO) and its association with subclinical atherosclerosis. Authors have used non-invasive Glucose Breath test to diagnose SIBO. This is an important study. The idea is novel but the number of patients enrolled is too less to come to this conclusion as mentioned by the authors also. However it needs some modifications in results presentation. Table 1 SIBO positive and negative have only be given in males. The data for females should also be given. Similarly the data of other parameters like Vitamin K intake and Framingham risk score should be defined in males and females separately

We thank the reviewer to have highlighted the importance of our study.

According to the reviewer comments, tables have been modified providing data of males and females separately.