

November 19, 2012

Donald W Bowden, Editor-in-Chief of World Journal of Diabetes

Dear Dr. Bowden,

Our manuscript titled "Comparison between sitagliptin and nateglinide on postprandial lipid levels: The STANDARD study" (manuscript no. 412) has been improved as follows, according to the suggestions of reviewers. We hope you will find our revised manuscript satisfactory.

Comments from Reviewer 1:

As noted, the small size is one major limitation of the study. The manuscript could be improved by including more details in method about biomarker measurement; in data analysis, adjustment for baseline covariates may lower potential confounding effects.

→ We acknowledge the small sample size and this is already mentioned in the Discussion section as one of the study limitations. We do not consider it necessary to describe details in method about biomarker measurement, as our measurement values were obtained from general clinical laboratory tests. We also do not expect the nondisclosure of this information to compromise the reproducibility of this study, mainly since, again, the measurements employed in our study are very common. As pointed out, adjustment for baseline covariates could have avoided confounding effects (if any). Unfortunately, the two groups in question differed from each other in terms of baseline BMI. We presume, however, that this minimally affected the results, given that there were no appreciable changes of BMI in either group after 3 months. In this study, we focused on the changes in each group, rather than a head-to-head comparison to seek a significant difference between the two groups.

Comments from Reviewer 2:

This is a well-conducted preliminary study that needs to be validated in further investigations with a larger cohort of patients.

→ As pointed out, the sample size of our study was small, and this is already acknowledged in the Discussion section. We totally agree that further research is needed to confirm our findings.

In addition to the above-mentioned revisions, we have modified our manuscript to conform to the revision policies of WJD as follows: (i) The Methods section of the Abstract has been increased to exceed 140 words; (ii) The Results section of the Abstract has also been increased to exceed 294 words; and (iii) Fifteen references have been added to the References section to exceed 26 references, the minimum acceptable amount. We have also inserted the Comments section between the main text and the References section.

Should there be any oversight, please let us know. We would be more than happy to address any concerns about our submission. Again, thank you very much for considering our manuscript for publication in WJD.

Yours sincerely,

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