

Dear Editor,

Thank you for sharing the comments with us. We have tried our level best to modify our manuscript as much as possible in light of the comments. All changes in the text are highlighted and a point by point reply is given below.

We hope that the changes comply by the standard of the journal.

Regards

Sadia

Comment:

Please provide the decomposable figure of Figures, whose parts are movable and editable. So you can put the original pictures in PPT and submit it in the system.

Reply: Thank you we have added the figure as a PPT

Comment:

Your manuscript should be prepared with Word-processing Software, using 12 pt Book Antiqua font and 1.5 line spacing with ample margins.

Reply: Thank you we have made the appropriate change. All abbreviations are mentioned in full when used for the first time. Author contribution is also added along with the article highlights.

Reviewer 1:

I have reviewed the manuscript titled EGFR rs17337023 Polymorphism in Hypertensive Gestational Diabetic Women: a Pilot Study by Sana's team. I would therefore recommend this manuscript for favor of publication. However, would strongly encourage the authors to increase the study population size.

Reply:

Thank you for the kind words of appreciation and the suggestion. Unfortunately, due to limited resources we are unable to increase the sample size of this study. This is one of the limitations which is mentioned in the discussion section.

Reviewer 2:

I have reviewed the manuscript titled EGFR rs17337023 Polymorphism in Hypertensive Gestational Diabetic Women: a Pilot Study by Sana's team. EGFR SNPs can associated with diabetes complications and gestational hypertension because endothelial dysfunction is common to both conditions (Hadi HA, 2007; Babbette LaMarca 2012). However, in the current study Sana et al did no find any significant association between EGFR rs17337023 Polymorphism and GD/GHTN. I believe that publication of negative results/non-conclusive results are also important and need to be encouraged. I would therefore recommend this manuscript for favor of publication. However, would strongly encourage the authors to increase the study population size, especially the control population size. A power analysis is recommended.

Reply:

Thank you for the kind words of appreciation and the suggestion. Unfortunately, due to limited resources we are unable to increase the sample size of this study. This is one of the limitations which is mentioned in the discussion section.

We have modified the paper in light of the comments.

The opinions are as follows:

1. Abbreviations should not be included in the Abstract.

Reply: All abbreviations are removed

2) Abstract Background: sentence 3; "found" and "possible" are not both reasonable here, since found means identified, not "possible". After "found", the authors need to summarize a pathway (eg. _____) that can contribute to arterial hypertension. In this Background, there is presently no biological plausibility to explain why the authors choose this specific EGFR SNP was used in this study.

Reply: Thank you, we have added the mechanism by which EGFR may induce hypertension

3) Abstract Conclusion: it is now not specific; i.e. " the _____ pathway regulated by rs17337023 is unlikely to be involved in the pathophysiology of".

Reply: Thank you. We have modified the conclusion accordingly.

4) Introduction: what is the authors' hypothesis? It is unclear why Rheumatoid Arthritis is connected to hypertension.

Reply: Thank you for the suggestion. We have made it more clear by replacing the disease name by the pathophysiological mechanism that causes hypertension via EGFR.

5) Methods: Why did the authors use the South Asian criteria for obesity rather than the worldwide World Health Organization criteria?

Reply: World Health Organization has designed specific BMI criteria's according to the population and ethnicities. These were formulated to cater for differences in height, diet and muscle to fat ratio in Caucasians and high risk population such as South Asians. Therefore, according to the WHO guidelines we have used the South Asian criteria for obesity.

6) Discussion: conclusion needs to be consistent with the conclusion in the Abstract.

Reply: Thank you. We have modified the conclusion accordingly.