

Reviewer's comments and answers

| Reviewer's comment   | Author's response |
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| 1. The word "HBA1C" should be replaced by "HbA1c".   | Done              |
| 2. The word "VS" should be described as "versus" or "vs".  | Done              |
| 3. Non-abbreviated forms of the abbreviated terms should be shown in their first appearance. For example, the word "MENA" should be described as "Middle East and North Africa (MENA)" in page 4, line 20: the word "GCC" should be described as "Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)" in page 5, line 3.   | Done              |
| 4. In page 7, lines 7-10, the sentences "The total number of the patients registered to follow up in December 2016 were 371, 196 patients who were not able to come to the appointment and were considered as no shows; among the rest, only 112 patient were involved in this study." should be corrected as, for example, "The total number of the patients registered to follow up in December 2016 was 371, among which 196 patients were not able to come to the appointment and therefore considered as no shows. Among the rest, 112 patients were involved in this study." | Done              |
| 5. In page 8, line 18, the sentence "25.7% of the ...." should be corrected as, for example, "About one forth (25.7%) of the ...." since numeral characters should not be put at the sentence initial position.  | Done              |
| 6. In page 10, line 4, the phrase "the mean of yearly direct cost is 952.8 SR" should be described in a form of "the yearly direct cost is $952.8 \pm **$ SR (mean $\pm$ SD)". Please show SD values when mean values are described, for example, line 5, line 8 in page 10.   | Done              |
| 7. In page 11, lines 7-8, the phrase "..., study showed no effect of the awareness about the effect of a healthy diet on BMI levels." should be corrected as, for example, "..., study showed no correlation between the awareness of the significance of healthy diet and BMI levels.".   | Done              |
| 8. In page 11, line 12, the sentence "8.9% of participants ..." should be corrected as "Eight point nine percent of participants ...".   | Done              |

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| 9. In Reference, the formation regarding DOI or PMID should be described. | Done |
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