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Dr. Timothy R. Koch
Editor-in-chief
World Journal of Diabetes

Dear Dr Koch

RE: The effects of gender-affirming hormone therapy on insulin resistance and body composition in transgender individuals.

Authors - Cassandra Spanos, Ingrid Bretherton, Jeffrey D. Zajac, Ada S. Cheung.

We are pleased to submit our revised manuscript for consideration for publication by *World Journal of Diabetes* as a review article. We thank you and the reviewers for their comments which we feel have significantly improved the manuscript. Please find our responses to the reviewer comments in [blue](#) below.

REVIEWER COMMENTS

REVIEWER 1

In my opinion it is a very interesting work in a field where the information is very scarce. The review has been exhaustive. Two points to comment related with the writing style. I would like, at least for the discussion a more narrative style instead of the actual divided in some epigrams. Related to the content I think that, again in the discussion it would be recomendable to comment de limitations of the work. Another point to be commented in my opinion should be the quality analysis of the disposable literature. I think they are minor aspects.

[Thank you for the reviewer comments and for acknowledging the excellent scientific quality, recommending acceptance and priority publishing. We acknowledge individual preferences in writing style and feel that the division of the discussion into subtitles helps clarity and understanding of the review. The results and discussion follow the same structure.](#)

[The limitations of the review are highlighted in the following paragraph \(lines 346-349\):](#)

[The studies reviewed are limited by small sample sizes, young participants who may be yet to develop insulin resistance and short duration of follow-up. There is a paucity of controlled prospective research. These limitations make it difficult to draw conclusions about the long term effects of gender-affirming hormone therapy on cardiovascular risk.](#)

REVIEWER 2

This review was done in an amicable and thorough manner given the paucity of the available published data on transgender treatment outcomes. The study mainly focused on transmen and transwomen in Europe especially Belgium and the Netherlands. Also, it was a systematic review of the subject in a retrospective fashion. Therefore, the parameters and limitations of the studies reviewed were apparent at the start. However, until more prospective studies can be conducted, this review brings to focus the available knowledge on the long-term effects of hormonal treatment. Line 50: The term transgender refers to an individual whose experienced or expressed deeply held sense of gender differs... “ this phrase must be refined.

[This phrase has now been changed to “The term transgender refers to an individual who has a gender identity which differs from their sex assigned at birth.”](#)

We believe that this work is well suited for the *World Journal of Diabetes* and of high interest to your readership. The authors hereby confirm that neither the manuscript nor any part of it, except for



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abstracts of less than 400 words, has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere. All co-authors participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for its content. The work will not be submitted for publication elsewhere until the editorial board has decided whether to publish the article. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely



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