

To: Editorial Office
World Journal of Clinical Cases

Ref: Manuscript 63872 "Vitamin D deficiency, functional status and balance in older adults with osteoarthritis".

POINT-TO-POINT RESPONSE

* Abstract Objective: "deficiency" is missing after vitamin D

Answer: The word was included at the abstract.

* For consistency, I would suggest using "older adults" or "elderly" throughout the manuscript.

Answer: We have chosen elderly and it has been replaced throughout the text.

* Results: the first sentence is not clear. It is not clear what is meant by "At the participants"...

Answer: The first paragraph was rewritten to be more clear.

* Please provide the % of moderate to severe cases in the group with normal vitamin D levels in parentheses with 56.6% (e.g. 56.5% vs xx.x%)

Answer: This information was included at the results at page 9.

* Results should be presented in past tense

Answer: The verb tenses were correct throughout the text.

* Conclusion: should be written in a way that does not imply causation as this is a cross-sectional study.

Answer: The conclusion at the final of the manuscript and at the abstract were rewritten considering this suggestion.

* Introduction: paragraph 2, overload of joint strength is not a risk factor for OA

Answer: We agree and this information was removed from the paragraph.

* paragraph 4, first sentence needs a reference

Answer: We included a reference to support the information.

* paragraph 4, second sentence: low levels of what

Answer: Low levels of vitamin D. However, this sentence was rewritten to improve understanding the idea.

* Paragraph 5, second sentence need supporting references and Paragraph 5, third sentence ends with Hussain et al

Answer: References were included as recommended as the sentence rewritten.

* Paragraph 5, the sentence “Furthermore, there are no published reports concerning a possible association between vitamin D deficiency and functional status of individuals with OA” is not true. Please see: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31453483/>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4311532/>

Answer: This sentence was rewritten and this reference was included.

* Materials and Methods: Study design and population: second paragraph- rheumatoid arthritis is not a muscle disease but rather a musculoskeletal disorder.

Answer: We agree and this information was replaced to musculoskeletal disorder as suggested.

* Results: “there were more overweight (BMI average 28 ± 4.7) and lower smokers (34.3%) being these data shown in Table 1” is grammatically incorrect.

Answer: This sentence was rewritten.

* Table 1: Absolute is misspelled.

Answer: This word was corrected.

* Figures 1 and 2: suggest replacing the legends with x-axis labels

Answer: The figure legend was corrected to improve the quality of the figures.

* Discussion • “Additionally, it was also noticed an association of vitamin D deficiency and postural balance” is grammatically incorrect

Answer: The sentence was rewritten.

* Need to include a section on limitations of the study which should highlight at the minimum the limitations of the study population, study design, and the generalizability.

Answer: A paragraph at the end of the discussion section was included to describe the study limitations.

* Conclusion: The cross-sectional design of the study does not adequately allow to conclude “Additionally, it may be prudent to define the optimal dose of supplement for

maximum effect with minimal side effects”.

Answer: We agree and the conclusion was rewritten.

* Reference 22 does not investigate the association of vitamin D levels with the severity of OA, so it is out of scope for the current study. Suggest removing it. Same for reference 24. Suggest including more studies that evaluated the relationship between vitamin D levels and OA severity.

Answer: The references were replaced by others that evaluated the relationship between vitamin D levels and OA severity.

* Overall: The manuscript needs to be revised using an English-speaking editor. There were many places where the meaning was not clear due to syntax errors.

Answer: the revised version has gone through extensive English editing by *Filipodia* and the certificate is attached with the revised version.

We sincerely hope that it may be now suitable for the Journal standards. If there is any other question or correction necessary, please let me know. Thanks again.

Best regards,



Dr. Karen Fernandes – Corresponding author