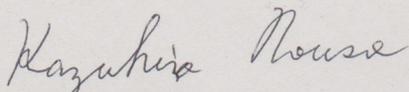


Dear Dr. Takeuchi,

I reviewed the manuscript, and affirmed all the statistical analysis was adequately performed with respect to the following points: (1) Statistical methods are adequately and appropriately described when they are used to verify the results; (2) Whether the statistical techniques are suitable or correct; (3) Only homogeneous data can be averaged. Standard deviations are preferred to standard errors. The number of observations and subjects (n) is given. Losses in observations, such as drop-outs from the study, are reported; (4) Values have the 95% confidence limits calculated and have been compared by weighted probit modeling; and (5) The word "significantly" is replaced by its synonyms (if it indicates extent) or the P value (if it indicates statistical significance).



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