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Science Editor, Editorial Office

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SELF-WORTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT OF OBESE CHILDREN: AN ANALYSIS THROUGH THE DRAW-A-PERSON

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript.

These are the changes we made in the revised version of the manuscript which has been modified according to the Reviewers' suggestions.

Reviewer: 1

1. *To describe the number of children they were invited to the study, the number of children who refused to participate in the study, the number of data that had to be dropped from the sample because of missing information.*

In the "Subjects and procedure" section it was specified the number of children they were invited to the study, the number of children who refused to participate in the study, the number of data that had to be dropped from the sample because of missing information. (PAG. 12. *"The participants were 78 Italian children from two Roman schools ... Eight children refused to participate in the study, and data coming from 20 children had to be dropped from the sample because of missing information"*).

2. *It is important that the authors explain the reasons which the authors selected children from two public schools.*

It was specified that the two schools were selected randomly to assure generalizability of data (PAG. 12 *"To assure generalizability of data, the two schools were randomly selected from the whole sample Roman public schools"*)

3. Also to describe, the reasons why the authors did not make a selection of subjects from different socioeconomic strata (to analyze the EAC and ESW among overweight/obesity by strata).

As concerning the effect of socioeconomic status, it was decided to discuss this topic as a limitation of the study at the end of the manuscript. (PAG. 19. *"This study has different limitations. First of all, it was not considered the possible effect of socioeconomic strata on the relationship between obesity and the EAC and ESW variables; however, random selection of the two samples probably reduced the possible effect of socioeconomic factors on the results of this study"*).

4. *It is important to describe the marks of equipment were used to perform the anthropometric measurements of the sample studied. In addition, to described details of how the people who performed*

the measurements were trained. Indicate the reasons why the International Society for the Advancement of Kinanthropometry (ISAK) procedures were not used to perform the anthropometric measurements of the sample studied. Mention the procedure followed to measure the weight and height, and the type of clothes, girls were wearing during the anthropometrical measurements.

It was described in more details the procedure followed to perform the anthropometric measurements of the sample studied (PAG. 12 *“Children did not dress shoes and wore light clothing. Heightbar was fixed on the wall, and children were standing with back and heels pressed to the wall. Measurements were performed by three trained examiners according to standard procedures (Lohman, Roche, & Martorell, 1992)”*).

5. *Mention if possible sexual development that children had at the moment of the study, and the antecedent of age at menarche.*

As concerning sexual development of children, it was also decided to discuss this topic as a limitation of the study at the end of the manuscript; unfortunately, this variable was not taken into consideration in the study (pag.19. *“Also, sexual development that children and the antecedent of age at menarche had at the moment of the study were not considered; this is a limitation as these variables are related with different personality characteristics of children. Future research may address this question”*).

6. *To present a paragraph with the statistical analysis. Mention if normality tests were conducted to the quantitative variables.*

It was presented a paragraph with the statistical analysis. It was mentioned that normality tests were conducted (PAG. 13. *“A one-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was conducted beforehand to detect excessively skewed data; data which were not normally distributed were subjected to natural log transformations. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare the dependent variables across the three groups. Pearson correlation test was used to search for possible association between the different variables under investigation. Chi-square test was used to investigate for possible differences whenever qualitative variables were involved. Statistical analyses were performed in SPSS for Windows 16.0 (SPSS, 2007)”*).

7. *Results - In order to make a clear comparison by sex, it is recommended that the authors make a table, with the anthropometrical outcomes of boys and girls, EAC and ESW data.*

As suggested, it was made a table reporting anthropometrical outcomes, EAC and ESW data by gender (table 2). The number of the table was changed accordingly.

8. *Discussion - Consider mentioning the role that sex hormones, and maturity of the hypothalamic, pituitary gonad axes in the psychological symptoms and self-esteem of adolescent girls. Some researchers have shown that there is a negative relationship with self-esteem and sexual development of girls and adolescents. In the study of Huerta R, Brizuela-Gamiño O, 2002, Mar; 47(3):217-25, published in JRM 2002, the authors showed that girls who are older and achieve highest sexual development had lower self-esteem, more anxiety and depression than girls younger and with less sexual development. This results were independent of the girls 'body weight.*

In the discussion section it was considered the role of sexual development in the association between age and psychological symptoms of adolescent girls (PAG 15 *“Nevertheless, it is also important to consider the role that sex hormones, and maturity of the hypothalamic, pituitary gonad axes in the psychological symptoms and self-esteem of adolescent girls. Some researchers have shown that there is a negative relationship between self-esteem and sexual development of girls and adolescents. Specifically, Huerta and Brizuela-Gamiño (2002) showed that girls who are older and achieve highest sexual development had lower*

self-esteem, more anxiety and depression than girls younger and with less sexual development, independent of the girls' body weight. Consequently, it may be important to consider sexual development of obese female adolescents in the assessment of their possible emotional problems, as it may take an important role in the development of their psychological troubles").

All changes have been underlined.

Thank you very much for your attention and the Reviewers' evaluation and comments on our manuscript: again, we appreciate all your insightful comments, and we tried to be responsive to them.

Thank you for taking the time to help us to revise and improve our manuscript.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
Antonio Bruno