

## Dear Editor

*Thank you for your comments regarding our paper. As a follow-up to their critiques, we submit our point-by-point reply to the reviewers' recommendations with the hope that these changes will now make our manuscript acceptable.*

1. Any manuscript describing a study (basic research and clinical research) that used biostatistics must include a statement in the Materials and Methods section affirming that the statistical review of the study was performed by a biomedical statistician. Statistical review is performed before the submission or after peer-review. The author invites an expert in Biomedical Statistics to evaluate the statistical method(s) used in the study, including but not limited to the t-test (group or paired comparisons), chi-square test, rdit, probit, logit and regression (linear, curvilinear, or stepwise) modeling, correlation, analysis of variance, and analysis of covariance. The review by the biomedical statistician is conducted 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, such as ED50, LD50 and IC50, have the 95% confidence limits calculated and have been compared by weighted probit modeling (using the functions described by Bliss and Finney); and (5) The word "significantly" is replaced by its synonyms (if it indicates extent) or the P value (if it indicates statistical significance). In addition, a copy of any approval document(s)/letter(s) or waiver should be provided to the BPG in PDF format.

*Answer*

*The following sentence was added in the title page: "Biostatistics: No biostatistics were used"*

2. Basic research and clinical research studies require a data sharing statement. The data sharing statement will be provided in the title page, and will be presented in the following form: Technical appendix, statistical code, and dataset available from the corresponding author at Dryad repository, who will provide a permanent, citable and open-access home for the dataset. In addition, a copy of the signed statement should be provided to the BPG in PDF format.

*Answer*

*The following sentence was added in the title page: "Data sharing statement: No additional data are available". In addition, a copy of the signed statement has been provided in PDF format.*

3. An informative, structured abstract of no less than 246 words should accompany each manuscript.

*Answer*

*The Abstract was reviewed according to your suggestions.*

4. Please offer the audio core tip

*Answer*

*An audio core tip was provided*

5. Please put the reference numbers in square brackets in superscript. Please check across the text.

*Answer*

*Corrected*

6. Please write the comments.

*Answer*

*A comments section was added*

7. Please mark the location of all figures in the text. Please offer total title for each figure.

*Answer*

*Corrected*

8. Please add ref number for all cited references.

*Answer*

*Corrected*