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PROTEIN DIET IN RAT LIVER  
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Dear Reviewer,

I would like to express my gratitude for your favorable review of our manuscript. All your comments are extremely relevant, and I'm sure that they will enrich the present study.

You did an observation about the inadequate use of the Fisher exact test for the statistical analysis. I would like to explain that there was a mistaken during the typing of the article. The correct statistical methodology was the one describes bellow:

**"The results of this study are presented using descriptive statistics such as arithmetic mean and standard deviation. The two-tailed unpaired Student' t test was used to compare means between the two groups. It was considered that 95% confidence interval contains the true difference between the means ( $P < 0.05$ ). Graphpad-Prism Test used an F test to prove that the datas came from two groups that have identical standard deviations (and thus identical variances). The computer program used was Graphpad-Prism version 6.0e for Mac OS X, 2015, and WinMDI 2.9 was used for flow cytometry. The IHC and optical microscopy were based on observational evaluation by an expert."**

They are different tests; the Fisher exact test is used to study contingency tables and the F-test to demonstrate if the variances are identical or not. Based on your observation we decided to re-write this paragraph explaining through the statistical analysis chosen.

You have suggested commenting some aspects of NAFLD, although it was not found in our results. We agree with you since it is a relevant problem caused by modifications in macronutrients composition of the diets. The articles suggested by you are excellent ones, and we decided to include them in our references.

**“Among macronutrients, carbohydrates and fat are largely responsible for the observed alterations since they promote changes in gene transcription and glycolytic and lipogenic enzymes (sterol responsive binding protein 1/2 (SREBP) and the mammalian target of rapamycin – mTor), insulin, and adipokines.”**

**Tarantino G, Capone, D. Inhibition of the motor pathway: a possible protective role in coronary artery disease. *Ann Med* 2013; 45: 348-356 [DOI: 10.3109/07853890.2013.770333]**

**“Although the prevalence of NAFLD in rich countries is between 20 and 30% and this condition is considered to be part of the Metabolic Syndrome, which is responsible for high morbidity and mortality, many aspects of its pathology and treatment remain only partially understood. Apoptosis is considered an important point of NAFLD lesion and a common mechanism of hepatic injury. “**

**Tarantino, G. Should nonalcoholic fatty liver disease be regarded as a hepatic illness only? *World J Gastroenterol* 2007; 13: 4669-4672 [DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v13.i35.4669]**

We thank you for your considerations, and we are available to provide any explanation that you find necessary about the manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Emília Lopes Monteiro