

Florence, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014

To:  
Professor Yicheng Ni,  
Editor in Chief  
World Journal of Methodology

Dear Editor,  
Dear Reviewers,

All the authors of the manuscript entitled “Measurement of body composition as a surrogate evaluation of energy balance in obese patients” would like to thank you for consideration and reviewing efforts.

The aim of this review was to analyse scientific evidences, to date available, about body composition and energy expenditure. As you can imagine, much has been published about this topic by several worldwide research groups, international and national societies.

Reviewer #1

- 1) In order to provide an exhaustive point of view on this topic without creating a data-overwhelming manuscript, we focused our attention on adult population, which is moreover the principal subject matter of our clinical research and activity at the Section of Endocrinology, University of Florence, in Italy. The dramatic rise of prevalence of childhood obesity requires simple and accurate methods for evaluation of body composition in paediatric populations. Very few among the BIA equations developed for estimating fat-mass and free fat mass in children and adolescents included a cross-validation sample. A recent review by Silva AM et al (Journal of Obesity, 2013; article ID 148696) have exhaustively analysed all the available BIA and/or anthropometric-based equations published between 1985 and 2012 for body composition assessment in the paediatric population. In particular, changes in the density and hydration of free fat mass during childhood require the development of different methods (such as multicomponent models) in comparison to adult population. Then we propose to modify the manuscript title in “Measurement of body composition as a surrogate evaluation of energy balance in adult obese patients”.

The authors ask the opinion of Editor in chief about this point.

Reviewer #2

- 1) See point 1. Reviewer #1
- 2) Conclusion section has been restructured accordingly to the reviewer's criticism, thus improving the manuscript quality.
- 3) First mention of BIA in abstract has been spelled out accordingly to the reviewer's criticism.
- 4) Modified accordingly to Reviewer's criticism.

Reviewer # 3

No answer required.

A very careful language revision has been performed throughout the manuscript, accordingly to our abilities on previously published scientific articles and to the formative experience of the corresponding author.

Thanking you and the reviewers again for consideration and reviewing efforts,  
Yours sincerely.

Professor Carlo Maria Rotella

Matt Bell