

MANUSCRIPT No: **91018**– Answers to Reviewers, Science editor and **Company editor-in-chief**:

Comments

Reviewer #1:

FURTHER REMARKS

8. Illustrations and tables. Are the figures, diagrams, and tables sufficient, good quality and appropriately illustrative, with labeling of figures using arrows, asterisks, etc, and are the legends adequate and accurately reflective of the images/illustrations shown? NO –

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made in the tables and figures of the edited version of the manuscript.*

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: 10. Units. Does the manuscript meet the requirements of use of SI units? NO –

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made in the edited version of the manuscript.*

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: 13) Research methods and reporting. Authors should have prepared their manuscripts according to BPG's standards for manuscript type and the appropriate topically-relevant category, as follows STROBE Statement - Case Control study, Observational study, Retrospective Cohort study? STROBE STATEMENT SHOULD BE PRESENTED IN TABULAR FORM AND PAGES ADDRESSED TO EACH POINT SHOULD BE INDICATED

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the strobe statement. Strobe statement is presented in tabular form and indicated the page no.*

SPECIFIC COMMENTS DISCUSSION

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

Among limitations of the study, apart of low number of participants also its cross-sectional design should be mentioned. Such a design does not allow to draw conclusions regarding causality of relationships revealed in the study.

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

TABLES - Each table should be self-explanatory, ie. Each abbreviation should be explained in a footnote below table. There is lack of units of a vast majority of presented values. Moreover, apart of traditional units also obtained results should be presented in SI units - as main, while traditional units below them or in parentheses

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

FIGURES - Also there is lack of units, and regarding SI units the same applies as in case of tables. Moreover, it seem to be logical that analyzed variables: PISA and CAL should be consequently presented on X or on Y axis without changing them

AUTHOR's RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript*

- In figure 2 PISA is presented on Y axis and HbA1c is presented on X axis. Here PISA is the dependent variable and HbA1c is the exposure variable .We assessed the effect of HbA1c on PISA.
- In figure 3: IL6 is presented on Y axis and PISA on X axis. Here IL6 is the dependent variable and PISA is the exposure variable. Here we assessed the effect of PISA(periodontitis) on IL-6.

- In figure 5: CAL is presented on Y axis and HbA1c on X axis. Here CAL is dependent variable and HbA1c is the exposure variable.
- In figure 6: IL-6 is presented on Y axis and CAL on X axis. Here IL -6 is the dependent variable and CAL is the exposure variable.

Reviewer#2:

Specific comments: 1. Please specify examples of macrovascular complications

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:

2. Please stick to the abbreviations used. Once started with an abbreviation, continue using it. Example: Diabetic retinopathy: DR

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

3. Please comment on the difference in duration of T2D in each group of patients?
This might be contributing to the results.

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

The duration of diabetes was significantly longer in DR group(11.94 ± 6.83 yrs) in contrast to T2DM without DR(8.07 ± 4.87 yrs).

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

4. Please comment on the difference in mean Hba1c at the time of study for both groups?

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

Even though both the study groups had poor glycaemic control, the HbA1c values were significantly higher in DR group (8.67 ± 1.8) as compared to T2DM without DR (7.64 ± 1.2). Longer duration of diabetes and increased glycaemic burden are positively associated with the incidence of DR.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

6. Why was retinopathy chosen out of the other microvascular diseases? Was there any specific reasoning?

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is one of the most common microvascular complications of DM, and it is the progressive dysfunction of the retinal blood vessels caused by chronic hyperglycaemia. It is one of the leading causes of blindness. Approximately one in three people with diabetes have DR and one in ten will develop a vision threatening form of the disease.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

7. The limitation section is weak. Please add more limitations of the study

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

(1) The limitation section is weak. Please add more limitations of the study.

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

(2) **Table(s) and figure(s):** There are 3 tables and 7 figures, and all should be improved.

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

5. Language evaluation: The English-language grammatical presentation needs to be improved to a certain extent.

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript.*

7 Specific comments:

The “Author Contributions” section is missing. Please provide the author contributions.

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: “Author Contributions” is provided along with revised manuscript submission

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor. If the author has used a figure published elsewhere or that is copyrighted, the author needs to be authorized by the previous publisher or the copyright holder and/or indicate the reference source and copyrights. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (*i.e.* generated *de novo* by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is ‘original’, the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2024.

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: *Appropriate changes were made to the edited version of the manuscript {figure document}.*

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR

Authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The

contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE: provided.