

March 16, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word Format (file name: 8915-editedresponse(final).docx. and marked up copy 8915-edited response(4).docx).

Title: Weight Gain Following Breast Cancer Diagnosis: Implication and Proposed Mechanisms

Authors: Grace Makari-Judson, Barry Braun, D Joseph Jerry and Wilson C Mertens

Name of Journal: World Journal of Clinical Oncology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 8915

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

1. The Format has been updated. Fax and telephone numbers added with country codes. The requirements of the Topic Highlight were met. Four references were added to bring the reference number up to 70 with significant numbers of publications in the last four years. References were renumbered to accommodate the changes.
2. Revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers.  
Reviewer 02567328: *Authors could give more criticism on studies reported.*  
Response: Additional comments made as indicated in highlighted areas on pages 8,10, 11,12,14,16,18 and 19.

Reviewer 00532382: *No revision required*

Reviewer 02860540: *Has there been study in these subjects about genetic polymorphisms and weight gain (FTO)?*

Response: Additional information was added on page 16 outlining work related to FTO.

Reviewer 00505537:

1. *Consider changing the title of the article to weight gain following Treatment rather than weight gain following Diagnosis.*

Response: The reviewer is correct in stating that it is treatment that plays the more important role in weight gain. However, treatment may imply five years of adjuvant hormonal medication or even treatment of metastatic disease. Because our focus is on what happens in the first one to two years after diagnosis of early stage breast cancer, we felt that the title should remain as is.

2. *Explain the method used to gather the articles mentioned in Table 1.*

Response: Studies were included in Table I organized in chronologic order with representative studies over time to reflect changes in adjuvant systemic therapy. Effort was made to include

international studies published in English. All studies included patients receiving adjuvant chemotherapy. Studies which focused on prognosis were not included in the table but were included in the text.

The paper is a Topic Highlight and not meant to be a comprehensive systemic review thus a methods section was not included. A sentence was added to the text describing how the articles were chosen on page 5.

3. *Change in size of words : Levine et al*

Response: Thank you for pointing this out. This was an error and has been corrected

4. *Comment on younger women and breast reconstruction after mastectomy and weight gain*

Response: Two additional references were added to address the importance of this especially in regards to quality of life and *overall* cosmeisis. Please refer to page 5.

Typesetting was corrected (as per comment by reviewer above on page 6).

Thank you for considering publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely yours,



**Grace Makari-Judson, MD**

**Associate Professor of Medicine**

**Tufts University School of Medicine**

*Baystate Regional Cancer Program*

*376 Birnie Avenue*

*Springfield, MA 01199-0001*

*Phone: 413-794-5433*

*FAX: 413-794-3613*

[grace.makari-judson@baystatehealth.org](mailto:grace.makari-judson@baystatehealth.org)