

Thyroid hormones profile among obese pregnant Sudanese women

Wisal Abbas, Ishag Adam, Duria A. Rayis, Nada G Hassan, Mohamed F. Lutfi

Corresponding author:
Mohamed Faisal Lutfi

Department of Physiology, College of Medicine, Qassim University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Department of Physiology, Nile College of Medicine Khartoum, Sudan

Handeling editor:

Michal Heger

Department of Pharmaceutics, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

Department of Pharmaceutics, Jiaying University Medical College, Zhejiang, China

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1st editorial decision

9-jun-2020

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00039

Thyroid hormones profile among obese pregnant Sudanese women

Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear Prof Lutfi,

Reviewers have now commented on your paper. You will see that they are advising that you revise your manuscript. If you are prepared to undertake the work required, I would be pleased to reconsider my decision.

For your guidance, reviewers' comments are appended below.

If you decide to revise the work, please submit a list of changes or a rebuttal against each point which is being raised when you submit the revised manuscript. Also, please ensure that the track changes function is switched on when implementing the revisions. This enables the reviewers to rapidly verify all changes made.

Your revision is due by Jul 09, 2020.

To submit a revision, go to <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jctres/> and log in as an Author. You will see a menu item call Submission Needing Revision. You will find your submission record there.

Yours sincerely

Michal Heger
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1: The authors describe alterations in thyroid hormone levels based on overweight and obesity. The following major concern needs to be addressed before consideration of publication.

1. The description of Table 3 states that Odds Ratios and Confidence Intervals are being presented. However, it does not say this in Table 3. In Table 3, for FT4 an OR of 0.06 is reported and honestly, seems quite extreme, especially given the levels reported in Table 2. Perhaps I am not understanding the analysis done that is presented in this table, and would appreciate more detailed information in the description, and confirmation from the authors that this is indeed an Odds Ratio being reported.

The following minor concerns are listed for consideration:

1. In the Introduction the authors utilize reference 1 to represent women in the UK. However, that study is from the US.
 2. The authors state that in the US one third of women are overweight & obese. It is actually closer to one third of women are overweight and another third are obese.
 3. The authors propose that thyroid hormone variations can be due to circadian rhythms, seasonal variation and ambient temperature, but they do not seem to control for these things in their analyses.
 4. It is unclear from the author's description of their power calculation if the underweight group of 9 subjects is properly powered to determine a difference within this group.
 5. In the methods the authors state that they categorize subjects by BMI at the first antenatal appointment. However, calculating BMI in pregnancy is tricky, especially given that they do not state when the first appointment occurred. Pre-pregnancy weight is preferred, or first trimester weight. The authors need to state this in their methods or account for this in the stratification into overweight and obese.
 6. Throughout the manuscript, the authors refer to FT3 and FT4. In the tables they utilize free tri-iodothyronine and Free thyroxine. It would be helpful to be consistent with one or the other throughout the manuscript.
-

Author's rebuttal

The editor

Thank you for the valuable comments from the reviewers(s). Below are point to point response to the reviewer's comments:

Reviewer comment

The authors describe alterations in thyroid hormone levels based on overweight and obesity. The following major concern needs to be addressed before consideration of publication.

1. The description of Table 3 states that Odds Ratios and Confidence Intervals are being presented. However, it does not say this in Table 3. In Table 3, for FT4 an OR of 0.06 is reported and honestly, seems quite extreme, especially given the levels reported in Table 2. Perhaps I am not understanding the analysis done that is presented in this table, and would appreciate more detailed information in the description, and confirmation from the authors that this is indeed an Odds Ratio being reported.

Authors response

Table 3 was modified so that odds ratios and confidence intervals are now clear. Please, see the modified table 3 in page 8. Calculation of FT4 odds ratios was revised and it was 0.06 i.e. higher FT4 decrease the risk of obesity among pregnant women ($1/0.06=16.7$) times.

Reviewer comment

The following minor concerns are listed for consideration:

1. In the Introduction the authors utilize reference 1 to represent women in the UK. However, that study is from the US.

Authors response

Sorry for the mistake. It is now corrected. Please, See the second line in page 3.

Reviewer comment

2. The authors state that in the US one third of women are overweight & obese. It is actually closer to one third of women are overweight and another third are obese.

Authors response

Sorry for the mistake. It is now corrected. Please, See the second line in page 3.

Reviewer comment

3. The authors propose that thyroid hormone variations can be due to circadian rhythms, seasonal variation and ambient temperature, but they do not seem to control for these things in their analyses.

Authors response

Influences of these biological/environmental factors on thyroid function give explanation for the possible differences in thyroid hormones profile of obese pregnant women in different countries. In the present study we examined the thyroid profile among pregnant women, which were all Sudanese and are exposed to the same circadian rhythms, seasonal variation and ambient temperature. If the sample we investigated included other nationalities, it will be essential to control for these confounders.

Reviewer comment

4. It is unclear from the author's description of their power calculation if the underweight group of 9 subjects is properly powered to determine a difference within this group.

Authors response

Yes, we agreed that 9 women are few to determine a difference within this group; however we did not put underweight in any of the consideration or comparison. All over the paper we investigated the overweight and obese versus the controls (normal weight).

Reviewer comment

5. In the methods the authors state that they categorize subjects by BMI at the first antenatal appointment. However, calculating BMI in pregnancy is tricky, especially given that they do not state when the first appointment occurred. Pre-pregnancy weight is preferred, or first trimester weight. The authors need to state this in their methods or account for this in the stratification into overweight and obese.

Authors response

Yes, we agreed and thank you very much for this comment. Actually, we considered this point and we enrolled women in the first trimester. This point is clarified in the method, please see the methods. Moreover, you can see in the results that the gestational age supported this point.

Reviewer comment

6. Throughout the manuscript, the authors refer to FT3 and FT4. In the tables they utilize free tri-iodothyronine and Free thyroxine. It would be helpful to be consistent with one or the other throughout the manuscript.

Authors response

Yes, thank you. FT3 and FT4 were changed in the tables.

2nd editorial decision
11-Jun-2020

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00039R1
Thyroid hormones profile among obese pregnant Sudanese women
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear author(s),

Reviewers have submitted their critical appraisal of your paper. The reviewers' comments are appended below. Based on their comments and evaluation by the editorial board, your work was FOUND SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION AFTER MINOR REVISION.

If you decide to revise the work, please itemize the reviewers' comments and provide a point-by-point response to every comment. An exemplary rebuttal letter can be found on at <http://www.jctres.com/en/author-guidelines/> under "Manuscript preparation." Also, please use the track changes function in the original document so that the reviewers can easily verify your responses.

Your revision is due by Jul 11, 2020.

To submit a revision, go to <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jctres/> and log in as an Author. You will see a menu item call Submission Needing Revision. You will find your submission record there.

Yours sincerely,

Michal Heger
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1: The authors have satisfactorily addressed each point raised in the previous review.

Editor-in-chief:

The manuscript has now passed peer review. However, before we can proceed to submitting your work, we kindly ask the authors to eliminate the grammar and spelling errors. The journal does not compromise on linguistics. For example:

"About one third of pregnant women in US [1,2] are overweight and another third are obese. In china prevalence of overweight women is comparable to UK and USA, though prevalence of obese women is as low as 5.8% [3]" contains the following errors:

- 2 spaces between "...in US..."

- US should read the US

- china should read China

comparable to the UK

Please have a native speaker peruse over the entire manuscript or contact the editorial office for further assistance.

Thank you.

Author's rebuttal

The editor

Thank you for the valuable comments from the reviewers(s). Below are point to point response to the reviewer's comments:

Editor-in-chief comment

The manuscript has now passed peer review. However, before we can proceed to submitting your work, we kindly ask the authors to eliminate the grammar and spelling errors. The journal does not compromise on linguistics. For example:

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- 2 spaces between "...in US..."

- US should read the US

- china should read China

comparable to the UK

Authors response

The entire manuscript was revised by an expert person.
If the manuscript needs further editing, I shall be grateful if the editorial office helps me in this task.

3rd Editorial decision

14-Jun-2020

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00039R2
Thyroid hormones profile among obese pregnant Sudanese women
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear Prof Lutfi,

Reviewers have now commented on your paper. You will see that they are advising that you revise your manuscript. If you are prepared to undertake the work required, I would be pleased to reconsider my decision.

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Yours sincerely

Michal Heger
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Reviewers' comments:

Dear authors, when I sent you my decision on June 6, I also sent you a personal email that contained 2 files: a PDF document (the edited submitted revision) and a WORD document (the edited revision that you had initially uploaded). In that email I specifically requested the following from you:

"Please note that I have edited your submission before sending it out for re-review so as to de-identify the manuscript for double blind peer review. I also reformatted your paper and eliminated spelling and grammatical errors.

You may find the documents attached.

It is of critical importance that you continue working in the Word document I have attached here so that I don't have to correct future versions again."

The second revision you resubmitted completely ignored this request and whoever made modifications to the manuscript did not follow my advice.

I am therefore sending the paper back to you and kindly ask you to implement the language editing in the attached WORD version.

Thank you,

Michal Heger
Editor-in-chief

4th editorial decision

15-Jun-2020

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00039R3
Thyroid hormones profile among obese pregnant Sudanese women
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear authors,

I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical and Translational Research.

You will receive the proofs of your article shortly, which we kindly ask you to thoroughly review for any errors.

Thank you for submitting your work to JCTR.

Kindest regards,

Michal Heger
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research