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Zinc Deficiency: The Association with Vitamin B12 in People of Different Ages

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1 Original submission

0 comments

No public comments in this round.

2

Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Reviewer 1:1. Done.3. In section of "Sample collection and preparation" please notify your population study and How many samples did you take. Done.4. Please correct the "Demographic indexes". Plural forms of index are Indices and Indexes, but indices is more acceptable. Done.5. In introduction, briefly mention the status of zinc and Vit b12 deficiency amongst Iranian population. Done.6. What is the normal range fo Vit b12? Done.(add to manuscript).Reviewer 2:It is an opportunity to review the manuscript titled "Zinc deficiency: The association with vitamin B12 in people of different ages" and below are my comments with regards to the manuscript. Generally, the work is interesting, but it needs improvement. In my opinion it can be considered for publication pending some minor revisions: Abstract is well written but with some minor grammatical errors, which should be revised. Done. As the authors rightly mentioned in the introductory section; both zinc and cobalamin are mainly acquired through dietary intake, however, serum levels of most elements that are acquired though diets (including zinc and vitamin B 12) are bound to decrease with advanced age. What is the significance of this work to the existing pool of knowledge?

In fact, in this study, an attempt was made to verify the previous studies, and secondly, by understanding the relationship between the two, it helped to understand the complexity of the issue.

¬ *The study population involved randomly selected patients that were admitted to a diagnostic facility: it would be better if the selection criteria was expanded to exclude patients with other background conditions that would generally impair oral intake such chronic oral pathologies, chronic diarrheal diseases, other chronic gastro-enteropathies such as pancreatitis, and other non-infectious conditions such as gastroesophageal reflux, chronic ulcer disease that may alter rates of enteric absorption or intestinal loss of these water soluble elements. The selection shall also exclude those with advanced age (geriatrics) who generally have impaired oral intake and are susceptible of microelement deficiency.Done.*

¬ *Since the study population were grouped based on and after evaluating the serum zinc levels, there is no need to include the third group of high serum zinc level (group 3), which was not obtained— as rightly indicated in the Methods section of the abstract. Corrected.*

¬ *The reader might be interested to know at which age range the unit zinc deficiency deepens and Vit B12 serum level appreciates yearly. Besides, the study findings clearly showed a positive correlation between the two micronutrients.Done*

¬ *The conclusion in the abstract and the main body does not tally. The authors shall kindly revise the conclusions and draw inferences based on thier findings alone. Corrected..*

¬ *Generally, there are minor typographical and linguistic errors in the manuscript that need careful revision. Done.*

2 Revision 1

1 comment · 1 Nov 2022

Referee 1 Reviewer

ACCEPT 1 Nov 2022

All comments have been addressed, and in my opinion, the manuscript can be published according to the editorial board's decision.