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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity in Children Diagnosed with Phenylketonuria

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About this report

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1 Original submission

2 comments · 14 Apr 2023 – 14 Apr 2023

Associate Editor

MAJOR REVISION 14 Apr 2023

Dear EIC,
I thank the authors and express my appreciation to the researchers. The manuscript is a valuable piece of research. But some revisions are needed. The authors should revise it based on the comments.

Editor-in-Chief

MAJOR REVISION 14 Apr 2023

Dear Author,
It is a useful study but needs some revision. All comments should be answered by the authors, and changes should be made based on the comments.

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.

Dear reviewers, Thank you for your valuable comments . Here are point -by point responses. The changes are highlighted yellow in the manuscript

Reviewer 1:
Thank you for your efforts about this manuscript, but I have some questions:
Title:
1- It needs revision, totally.
Authors said the aim of study was "To address the overweight/obesity prevalence in children with PKU." The title should be expressed the aim of study.

Done

Abstract:
2- We are not allowed to use any abbreviation word without definition for the first time: such as PHE, and so on

Done

3- According to the main aim of study, the frequency and prevalence data of obesity must be shown.

Done

Introduction:
It was suitable, mostly. However it needs revision partially.

4- In second paragraph, it is suggested the authors explain the others consequences of obesity in children such as hormonal dysfunction, micropenis, diabetes, risk of infection, sleep disorders, psychological issue, anxiety and etc. Pl adds these sentences in second paragraph of introduction: [in addition to specific adverse health outcomes of obesity including type-2 diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, dyslipidemia, hypertension, respiratory dysfunction, and several cancers, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, obese boys may suffer from small penis, overactive bladder, poor body image, decrease quality of life, anxiety and reduced physical activity. It seems that these issues are effective in nutrition status of this children and increasing the risk of hormonal dysfunction and micropenis in obese children].
You should be mentioned two new and valuable articles in your references:

“1- Is It Necessary to Weight Loss in Obese Boys with Small Penile Length? A Case-Control Study, J Compr Ped. 2020 ; 11(4):e107272. doi: 10.5812/compreped.107272.”
2- Which of the Anthropometric Parameters and Hormonal Variables in Prepubertal Children Are Correlated to True Micropenis?, Iran J Pediatr. 2021; 31(1):e108534. doi: 10.5812/ijp.108534.

Done

5- The introduction should include a better representation of the main rationale of the study and emphasis on the limitations of previous studies. But I did not see anymore.

6- Many studies have been done in this regard. Why the authors decided to conduct this study again? Pl expressed our new messages and novelty.

Answer point 5 and 6 : This paragraph has been supplemented in the introduction section.

Few studies have linked the prevalence of being overweight and obese in children to PHE levels. In addition, the patterns of lipid profiles and linking them to the nutritional status and PHE levels are rarely discussed before, hence our study was carried out.

Methods:
This section was good. But I have a few question. Let me share with you.
7- Setting of study (country)?

Done

8- What was sampling methods?

The patients were enrolled through consecutive sampling method, where every patient attending the nutritional clinic in National Institute for Nutrition and meeting the eligibility criteria was included in the study till reaching the required sample size. This paragraph has been supplemented

9- Total no of recruited subjects should be mentioned, precise and clear.

Done

10- There are many important confounders in this regards such as age,

nutrition status, vitamin intake, income of family, education of parents and so on.
11- Control of confounders is an important point. Describe statistical methods, used to control for confounding.

Done through logistic regression analysis Table : 8

Results:
12- Based on table 4, there was not significant differences between two groups [No (not Overweight or obese) and Yes (overweight or obese)] p = 0.414. However in text, you said "Concerning overweight and obese children, phenylalanine levels tended to show higher levels in them". It was not statistical significant.pl corrects it and mention in whole parts of manuscript.

Done

Discussion:
13- In the discussion part you should write the main(s) finding(s) and specially (novelty) at first and then allude to other studies.

Done

14- The limitations and recommendation should be noted in last paragraph of discussion.

Done

Conclusion:
15- It was not justified and revision totally.
You said "[Higher carbohydrates intake could be a leading cause for overweight /obesity in these vulnerable children. Lipid screening including obesity and lipid profile should be held early in the course of PKU, thus preventing undesirable health outcomes]". But this research did not study carbohydrates intake status and or undesirable health outcomes of obesity. It seems these should be omitted and moves to recommendation section in last paragraph of discussion.
Conclusion was vague and overall (not justify). The conclusion must be answered the aim of your study: (pl see the aim of study). It clearly states the conclusions to answer the posed questions, if applicable, based on the conclusions of the available evidence (real finding) and it emphasizes how clinicians should apply the current knowledge.

Done

References:

16- more than 50% of ref were so old. (almost before 2010). References need renewal.

Done , 6 new references were added

thank you
Reviewer 2:
thank you for choosing me
The article is interesting and useful, but it is better to pay attention to the following points
1- mention limitations such as the small sample size.

Done

2- in conclusion of the abstract , the practical points should be emphasized

Done

3-In the article, there is a close relationship between phenylalanine and fbs., it is better to draw the rock curve and determine the cutting of point

Done : table 7 , figure 1

4-it is better to writ based on these change s and practical point

Done

2 Revision 1

3 comments · 21 Apr 2023 – 26 Apr 2023

Referee 1 Reviewer

ACCEPT 21 Apr 2023

Dear authors
I thank you for all your efforts to publish scientific manuscripts to expand public knowledge. All comments were addressed by the authors.
Thank you

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 26 Apr 2023

Dear EIC,
I reviewed the manuscript again. The great effort in improving the manuscript is highly appreciated.
The authors have addressed all comments.
Thank you

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 26 Apr 2023

Dear Author,
Thank you for your explanation. I find your manuscript acceptable.