

Authors' response to final evaluator's comments

Thanks for your useful comments aimed at improving our article.

1. Introduction: Gaps in previous studies have been added.
2. The study was prospective. As stated in the methods, recruitment of the participants was done by consecutive selection of all apparently healthy traders without DM2 (from their pre-test questionnaire) that gave informed consent. Selection was not based on gender or age. The number of males and females represent the population of traders in the market used. Further studies could be designed to eliminate the effect of gender and age.
Statistics: Only the statistics used for analyses were written in this section in the manuscript.
3. Results and Discussion: Table 1 is a representation of the whole population. Stratification according to gender can be seen on Table 7. Stratification according to age (25-64 and ≥ 65 years) has been done and percentage of individuals with MS in these age groups has been written in the discussion. Table 2 has been removed as suggested. Results and discussion were mixed up according to journal's format. We would like to retain Tables 3 and 5 since the study aims to also address determinants of lipid metabolism. Table 4 addressed only non-significant findings which were referred to in the text. The non-MS section of Table 6 has been removed as suggested by another reviewer. Tables 8 and 9 have been merged as suggested. Percentages of females and females with metabolic syndrome components have been added to the legend on Table 7 (merged Table).
4. Conclusion: The conclusion in the abstract has been modified.