

### **Response to BMC Editorial Comments**

We thank the editors for their careful review and guidance. We have addressed all comments point-by-point below and revised the manuscript accordingly.

#### **Comment 1:**

Research conducted on humans and/or human data, or material must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration. Please include a statement clarifying whether your study adhered to the Declaration of Helsinki to this effect in the 'Ethics approval and consent to participate' section of the Declarations.

#### **Response:**

We have clarified in the manuscript that our study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. This statement has been added to the 'Ethics approval and consent to participate' section.

#### **Comment 2:**

We note that you have not included a 'Consent for publication' section in the Declarations. If identifying images or other personal or clinical details of participants are presented that compromise anonymity, a statement of consent to publish from the patient should be included. This section must be included even if it is not applicable.

#### **Response:**

We have now included a 'Consent for publication' section in the Declarations, stating: 'Not applicable. No identifying images or personal/clinical details of participants are included in this manuscript.'

#### **Comment 3:**

In your 'Ethics approval and consent to participate' section, please clarify whether informed consent to participate was obtained from all of the participants in the study and clearly state this in your manuscript.

#### **Response:**

We have clarified in the 'Ethics approval and consent to participate' section that informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to inclusion in the study.

#### **Comment 4:**

Please clarify whether your study was submitted to, and approved by, a local ethics committee or institutional review board (IRB) and include a statement to this effect in the 'Ethics approval and consent to participate' section.

**Response:**

Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the Deanship of the College of Medicine, Hadhramout University, which oversaw and approved the conduct of research involving students. The dean himself participated in the study (Professor Saleh Awad Bahwal: [salehbahwal@hu.edu.ye](mailto:salehbahwal@hu.edu.ye) )

**Comment 5:**

When submitting your revised manuscript, please select 'yes' under the data availability declaration and input your data availability statement in the appearing textbox.

**Response:**

We have added an 'Availability of data and materials' section in the Declarations stating that the datasets generated and analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due to institutional restrictions but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request. We will select 'yes' in the submission system.

**Comment 6:**

We note an 'Availability of Data and Materials' section is missing from the Declarations. Please include this section.

**Response:**

The 'Availability of data and materials' section has been included in the revised manuscript as requested.

**Comment 7:**

Please clarify whether the [questionnaire] used in your study was developed for this study or has previously been published elsewhere. If the [questionnaire] has been published elsewhere, please provide a reference to it. If it was developed for this study, please upload an English version as supplementary file and cite it.

**Response:**

The questionnaire used in this study was adopted and modified from literature (see Methods section of the manuscript, page 3 with references).