

Author's response to reviews

Title: Relationship between dialkylphosphate metabolites of organophosphates and seminal quality in pesticide applicators in Majes-Arequipa, Peru: a cross sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over

Lima, October 24th 2008

Editor-in-Chief, Environmental Health

Dear Editor

I declare in this letter that the study titled: “**Semen quality in Peruvian pesticide applicators: association between urinary organophosphate metabolites and semen parameters**” was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru. A signed informed consent was obtained from each study participant.

The study demonstrated that occupational exposure to OP pesticides was more closely related to alterations in semen quality than a single measurement of urine OP metabolites. Current measurement of OP metabolites in urine may not reflect the full risk.

Finally, all authors revised the manuscript and we are agreed to submit the manuscript to Environmental Health and we do not have any competing interests.

Best regards,

Dr. Sandra Yucra

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Reviewer

Author addresses, the country should not be in parenthesis. Also, please check spelling of Peru.

Answer: It was corrected

There should be no colon after corresponding author. Insert page break after the Abstract.

Answer: It was corrected

Please check language in text carefully. For example, the first sentence in the fourth paragraph on page 3 needs revision (remove 'of?'). On the bottom of page 11, '(Data not show)' should be placed before the full stop and should say (data not shown).

Answer: It was done

The literature references should be inserted before grammatical signs, e.g., middle of page 8. All abbreviations should be explained in the text when first used (revise page 9).

Answer: It was done

In your response, you indicate having used Holm's adjustment, but the text on page 11 says Bonferroni.

Answer: It was corrected

Both Tables 2 and 3 should have a brief title (the word limit must be respected), and the rest of the information may be added below. In the tables, please check the use of sentence case. All units in the tables should be in parenthesis. The publisher asks that page numbering be removed.

Answer: It was done