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Letter to the Editor

## Reply to comments on: Elevated blood apelin levels in type 2 diabetes mellitus: A systematic review and meta-analysis



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We thank for nice comments raised about on the article: Elevated blood apelin levels in type 2 diabetes mellitus: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

In the case of drug usage, we enrolled all of the studies which had used therapeutic drugs for the subjects. In these studies, there was data on blood apelin levels before and after therapies in the case and control subjects. However, we extracted the data from the publication before using drug therapy as reported by authors to overcome the effects of interventional therapies on the meta-analysis results. Thus, we didn't use apelin blood levels after drug administrations. Therefore, the results were not confounded on synthesis and secretion of apelin.

But, if the drug usage had occurred before interventional therapy, we excluded such publications due to drug administrations before blood collection for apelin level determinations.

Another point, as we mentioned in the "introduction part" of the article, is that "the majority, *but not all*, of the studies have reported increased circulatory apelin levels in humans and different animal models of metabolic pathologies".

Here, we hope our replying to comments to be useful for our readers.

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