16-january-2024.

Dear Prof Dr., Samia Hussien,

You submitted a manuscript AJGH-2312-1046 entitled " Let-7b miRNA expression in Patients with Anemia after Bariatric surgery." to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.  The reviewer's comments (s) are included at the end of this email.

The reviewers have requested revisions to your manuscript.  Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewers' comments and revise your manuscript. Instructions on how to do this can be found at the bottom of this email.

Because we are trying to facilitate the timely publication of manuscripts submitted to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, your revised manuscript should be submitted as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and I look forward to receiving your revision.

Sincerely,

Salem Y Mohamed

Chief Editor, African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Please revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer.  Please also highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document using the track changes mode in MS Word or using bold or colored text.

Once the revised manuscript is prepared, you can send it to me via email.

When submitting your revised manuscript, please provide your responses and details of changes made to each comment in an Author Response Letter.  To expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewers.

**Reviewer Comments to Author:**

**Reviewer1: (AF)**

The work is excellent and suitable for the new era in weight reduction protocols, but some questions should be answered: -

1. What types of weight reduction operations (gastric sleeve, bypass, or both)?
2. Did the case group take multivitamins after the operation? What was the compliance?
3. Did the case group complain of any chronic diseases?
4. Did the control group perform weight reduction operations but healthy or did not make operations?
5. The grammar and punctuation marks should be revised.

**Reviewer 2: (NF)**

1. In your title, which type of anemia?

2. Method: exclude hematological disease. Can these patients undergo bariatric surgery, or do you mean those who develop it after surgery?

3. If you mean iron deficiency, you didn't mention the iron profile.

4. miRNA, which type was expressed?

**Reviewer3: (AF)**

1. Add the aim of the study at the end of the introduction section.
2. How was the sample size calculated? What is the power of study?
3. How matching was done?
4. Why don't you add a correlation of mIR-Let-7b with other parameters? It can be informative here for iron and copper to determine factors correlated to them and linear regression analysis to determine independent predictors. Are there any other factors related to operation that can affect patients? I think more details are needed.
5. Does it affect anthropometric data? Role of diet, postop complications?
6. Do patients receive supplementation or not? I think there are lots of confounders that should be mentioned.
7. What does star here refer to? Add meaning in a footnote.

‎**Editor Comments to Author:**

1. Please check the author names and affiliations included on your Title Page, mainly that the spelling of all authors' names is correct. They are cited in the order you wish them to appear in the final article. In addition, each author's affiliation details are correct.

2. Please include a 'Structured Abstract': not more than 250 words, broken down into, i.e., Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, where available.

3. Please include up to 10 keywords in your revised manuscript (including the four keywords you selected as part of the submission process).

4. Please amend the references as per the author's guidelines:

a. References should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order they occur in the text.

b. References should appear as a number, i.e., [1, 2] in the text.

c. References should cite three authors et al.: It is our house style to list a maximum of six authors, and if there is more than this, three authors et al.

5. Please ensure all tables and boxes are titled and cited in the text. Three-line tables are preferred.

Please find a link to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Author Guidelines, which explains these sections in more detail: <https://ajgh.journals.ekb.eg/journal/authors.note>.

6. Please check the PDF file of your manuscript regarding plagiarism checking.

7. Please add the scale bar, annotations, magnifications, and program that generated these figures. Also, it is better to submit figures with high resolution and brightness.