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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Journal of Research in Dermatological Science**](https://journalajrdes.com/index.php/AJRDES) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJRDES\_143336** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD LEVELS OF SOME HEAVY AND TRACE METALS IN A POPULATION OF YOUNG ADULT FEMALES WITH HIRSUTISM IN NIGERIA** |
| Type of the Article | **Original Research Article** |

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| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | This manuscript explores the association of blood levels of certain heavy and trace metals with hirsutism in young adult Nigerian females. It addresses an important gap in understanding environmental and nutritional influences on endocrine-related dermatological disorders within African populations. The findings have public health significance, particularly in highlighting possible links between heavy metal exposure, trace element deficiency, and hirsutism. The work could stimulate further research in environmental endocrinology and dermatological epidemiology in developing countries. | Authors agree |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | The title is appropriate and descriptive. It clearly reflects the content of the manuscript. No changes needed. | **Blood Heavy and Trace Metal Profiles and Their Association with Hirsutism in Young Adult Females in Nigeria”**  Is now the new title as it is shortened, clearly and better reflects the content of the manuscript |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | The abstract is comprehensive and well-structured. However, it could be slightly shortened to emphasize the most significant findings and implications, while avoiding repetition of detailed methodology. | The abstract has been slightly shortened as recommended |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | The study is scientifically sound. The methodology (atomic absorption spectrophotometry, statistical tests) is appropriate. However, the sample size (n=40 cases, n=40 controls) is relatively small, and this limitation should be acknowledged in the discussion. | ***“Limitations:*** However, the authors acknowledge that the study sample size (n=40 cases, n=40 controls) is relatively small, and was due to absence of grant (sponsorship). A larger sample size should be applied in future studies.”  Has been added to the discussion |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | The references are generally sufficient and cite both local Nigerian and international works. Still, some citations are quite dated. The inclusion of more recent references (2021–2023) on heavy metals and endocrine disruption would further strengthen the manuscript. | This study appears to be very novel area for research, thus paucity of more recent references |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | The English is understandable, but there are several grammatical and typographical errors. Editing for conciseness, tense consistency, and clarity is recommended. | Authors agree, and has corrected the manuscript |
| Optional/General comments | The study is valuable and provides novel data from an under-researched population. The statistical results are clearly presented. However:  A limitations section should be explicitly added.  Discussion could better connect the findings with mechanisms of endocrine disruption and compare with global data.  Tables could be simplified for better readability. | ***“Limitations:*** However, the authors acknowledge that the study sample size (n=40 cases, n=40 controls) is relatively small, and was due to absence of grant (sponsorship). A larger sample size should be applied in future studies.”  Has been added to the discussion  Was already included in the discussion  Table style is very simplified and readable |

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| PART 2: | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment | Author’s Feedback (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| Are there ethical issues in this manuscript? |  |  |