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Author: Sorena Keihani, Seyedeh Maryam Kameli, Asal Hojjat, Abdol-Mohammad Kajbafzadeh

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Reply by the Authors

Original publication: Maternal Urinary Carbohydrate Antigen 19-9 as a Novel Biomarker for Evaluating Fetal Hydronephrosis: A Pilot Study <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.urology.2016.10.038>

Authors: Sorena Keihani, M.D.¹, Seyedeh Maryam Kameli, M.S.¹, Asal Hojjat, M.D.¹, Abdol-Mohammad Kajbafzadeh, M.D.^{1*}

Affiliation: Pediatric Urology Research Center, Pediatric Center of Excellence, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

***Correspondence to:** A.M. Kajbafzadeh

Pediatric Urology Research Center, Pediatric Center of Excellence, No.62, Dr. Gharib's Street, Keshavarz Blv, Tehran, Iran, P.O. Box: 1419733151

Email: kajbafzd@sina.tums.ac.ir

Tel: + 98-21-2208-9946

Fax: + 98-21-2206-9451

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We would like to thank Dr. Lopes for his interest in our article and the thoughtful comments. Whether CA 19-9 levels predict the actual hydronephrosis outcomes is indeed a very relevant clinical question that needs to be addressed in future studies. If this marker proves to be of clinical use for diagnosis and follow-up of antenatal hydronephrosis, then the concept of measuring maternal urinary CA 19-9 as an early surrogate for significant hydronephrosis in the infant would be a truly intriguing area of research given the simplicity and noninvasiveness of the approach. Furthermore, an optimal marker for hydronephrosis should ideally do better than ultrasonography and help surgeons to make the decision toward surgery versus observation.

As a tertiary pediatric urology center, most patients referred to our clinic for evaluation of antenatal hydronephrosis are a select group of mothers toward their third trimester of pregnancy carrying fetuses with severe hydronephrosis. This is probably because the

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