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Reply to Khosravi Shadmani F. et al

To the Editor,

We have read Shadmani et al's¹ comments with appreciation for their interest in our study.² They pointed out two methodological issues. The first one is the inherent limitation of cross-sectional studies. We absolutely agree with them that it is not possible to establish a true cause-and-effect relationship in cross-sectional studies. That is why, we stated "a cross-sectional study" in the title, never used confusing terms such as "predictor", "risk factor" in the paper, and have discussed this limitation in the discussion section. However, cross-sectional studies with large sample size are helpful to identify risk factors of health-related status and are widely used in epidemiological studies.

The second issue is about the selection of confounders. Actually, we have presented the results of univariate relationship between each covariate and outcome variable by chi-square tests or Student's *t* tests in Table 1. *P* values have been presented to show the significance of these univariate associations. Each of the covariates included in multivariate regression has been already associated with the outcome variable with a *P* value <.001. Therefore, we already had chosen confounders using the methods suggested by Dr. Shadmani and his/her colleagues.

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CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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