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To the Editor,

We would like to thank Dr. Yarandi (1) for his interest in our systematic review of the diagnostic value of atopy patch test (APT) in food allergy in children (2), and for taking the time to express his concerns about the methodology of our paper. We agree that adherence to a review protocol can reduce the risk of bias in the systematic review. Unfortunately, we did not have a formal independent protocol for this systematic review. However, we had worked with an outlined plan for this systematic review which includes aspects of question to address in the review; search strategy for identifying studies; data extraction plan; and quality assessment tool. We ensured strict compliance with this plan throughout the review process. We also agree that further analyses such as assessment of impact of study level risk of bias on the results of the review and exploration of source of heterogeneity can provide additional information regarding the diagnostic accuracy of APT in childhood food allergy. We assessed the publication bias by using Deeks' test as suggested (3), and there was no evidence of significant publication bias ($P = 0.99$). We acknowledge the importance of standard conducting and reporting of systematic review, but we do not think that the limitations in the review compromises the credibility of the results.

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