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Letter to the Editor

# Response to comment “Bone mineral density in pediatric celiac disease: Clinical, biochemical, and serologic profiles—a retrospective cohort study”

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## Introduction

We thank the authors for their interest in our study and for their constructive comments. We appreciate their emphasis on the need to update pediatric bone mineral density (BMD) reference data in Türkiye and on the potential future role of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted approaches in pediatric bone health assessment.

In our study, lumbar BMD was assessed at the L2–L4 vertebrae, and age-adjusted BMD z-scores (BMD-AAz) and height-adjusted BMD z-scores (BMD-HAz) were calculated using reference curves derived from healthy Turkish children (1,2). Although evaluating whether these reference curves require updating was beyond the scope of our study, we consider the authors’ emphasis on the need for updated and more representative national reference data important. We agree that pediatric reference data derived from larger, multicenter, and contemporary populations could contribute to the interpretation of dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) findings and improve comparability across future studies in Türkiye.

We also appreciate the authors’ comments regarding our findings in the gluten-free diet (GFD)-adherent follow-up group (FU-Adh group). Although higher BMD values were observed in this group, our study compared patients assessed at diagnosis with those assessed during follow-up rather than evaluating serial DEXA measurements in the same individuals. Therefore, prospective studies incorporating repeated DEXA measurements may further clarify changes in bone mineralization during follow-up on a GFD.

Finally, we agree that AI-assisted methods represent a promising area in pediatric bone health assessment. Their ability to integrate imaging, clinical, and demographic data may improve risk stratification; however, prospective validation in pediatric populations will be important before their broader clinical implementation.

We thank the authors once again for their valuable comments and for highlighting important directions for future research.

## References

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