



# Response to “Comments on ‘The Effects of Fat Harvesting and Preparation, Air Exposure, Obesity, and Stem Cell Enrichment on Adipocyte Viability Prior to Graft Transplantation’”

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We appreciate the Letter to the Editor by Chenglong Wang and Jie Luan.<sup>1</sup>

With respect to the first point, the body mass index (BMI) cutoff level used in our study (BMI greater than or equal to 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) was decided on the basis that previous stages refer to overweight and preobesity. We wanted to find a definitive conclusion about whether adipocytes in obese individuals show a diminution in viability, and we considered that taking the obese-only group (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, according to the World Health Organization) would allow us to reach that conclusion.

On the second point, the greater survival of adipocytes prior to injection in the host is achieved based on adequate harvesting, processing, and transfer techniques. Different variables affect its viability. The hypertrophy of adipocytes in obese patients and their “little possibility to regrow,” as mentioned by Wang and Luan, does not seem to us to cause the decrease in the viability observed in this group; large adipocyte size and its inherent fragility to mechanical trauma seems to be the cause of viability diminution as we mentioned in our paper.<sup>2</sup>

Regarding the third point, it should be mentioned that the purpose of our paper was to objectively measure and compare the processes prior to the relocation in the host, due to the possibility of standardization. There is a constant search in the world literature for standardization of the receptor bed, but variables are diverse: cutaneous retractions, radiodermatitis, scars, inelastic skin, inadequate vascular bed, etc., which compromise the viability of the adipocyte.<sup>3</sup> This implies that an adequate in vitro model similar to that found in vivo has not yet been achieved.

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