

Letters to the Editor

Analyses Do Not Support CYP17 Genotype-Estradiol Associations

In Response: Vitzthum and Thornburg's comments seem to reflect a basic misunderstanding of our paper and its results. As noted in the title of the article, we document an association between CYP17 genotypes and salivary estradiol levels. Variation in follicular steroidogenesis, up to and including ovulatory failure, is precisely the variation we are studying. To remove anovulatory cycles from the sample would be to remove a principal source of variance in estradiol levels between women, a source of variation with direct implications for breast cancer risk (1).

Vitzthum and Thornburg are also incorrect in their assertion that our statistical methods are flawed. In the repeated-measures ANOVA, the univariate F statistic may be safely used when accompanied by appropriate adjustments (Geisser-Greenhouse and Huynh-Feldt) to the degrees of freedom (even if the sphericity requirement is not met). In the article, we provided *P* values obtained under both types of adjustment. Our use of the Wilcoxon signed-rank test adhered strictly to the assumptions specified in the principal textbook of biostatistical methods by Sokal and Rohlf (2).

Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed.

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