RE: “CAFFEINE INTAKE AND SEMEN QUALITY IN A POPULATION OF 2,554 YOUNG DANISH MEN”

We read with interest the article by Jensen et al. (1) on the association between semen quality and caffeine intake among 2,554 young Danish men. They found a high intake of cola and/or caffeine products to be associated with reduced sperm concentration and total sperm count, but the association was statistically significant only for cola. Jensen et al. (1) cited a previous study conducted by our group (2), which analyzed the association between both prenatal coffee and current caffeine exposure and semen quality in 347 young Danish men. Our study does not exclude a small-to-moderate effect of prenatal coffee exposure on semen volume, but we found no association between current caffeine exposure and semen quality.

Jensen et al. (1) wrote that our study had information on only coffee and tea intakes, resulting in underestimation of caffeine intake due to appreciable amounts of cola drunk by many young men, which is not true. As stated in the article, we did estimate the total caffeine intake for the young men by adding caffeine from coffee and cola (2), and cola accounted for approximately 29% of the total caffeine intake.

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REFERENCES

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Editor’s note: In accordance with Journal policy, Jensen et al. were asked whether they wanted to respond to this letter, but they chose not to do so.

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