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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Osteoporosis and Sarcopenia

journal homepage: http://www.elsevier.com/locate/afos



Letter to Editor

Significant change for body composition data



We found it a little difficult to interpret the work of Paranhos Amorim et al. [1] as body fat and appendicular skeletal mass were analyzed for difference statistically. It is unclear to us if body composition values truly obey the laws of statistics. We suspect that it is more complicated and true reference ranges for clinically significant change is required.

By contrast, bone mineral densitometry has established test-retest variation of 2-3% for both spine and hip [2]. Hence, the findings of another article in the same issue by Mochizuki et al [3] is quite believable as it reported changes as percentages which are clearly beyond the clinically significant range. Until this is also established for body composition data, significant changes are difficult to interpret.

Conflicst of interest

The authors declare no competing interests.

Acknowledgments

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22 August 2022

Available online 29 September 2022