Author's response to reviews

Title: Epidural analgesia and Cesarean delivery in multiple sclerosis: the italian cohort study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

please find enclosed herewith our manuscript “Epidural analgesia and cesarean delivery in multiple sclerosis post-partum relapses: the Italian cohort study”, which we have completed following the reviewers’ suggestions. A detailed response to those appears below. The reviewer Yara D Fragoso suggested to re-submit the paper as Brief Report. We are still waiting for your decision on this point. In the meantime we have modified our paper following the remaining suggestions. Please note that in the previous version we forgot to include an Author who contributed to the acquisition of data, Dr. Elisa Piscolla. She is now included in the Authors’ list. Moreover, we have updated and corrected some Author’s affiliations. Changes are highlighted in yellow in the text. We thank the reviewers for effort and time spent in reviewing the manuscript and look forward to the publication of the paper.

Looking forward to your reply, I remain.
Sincerely,

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Reviewer # Nora Fernandez Liguori

1. The definition of disability has been updated in the introduction, as suggested
2. The title has been corrected as suggested
3. Patients were followed-up every 6 months for at least one year after delivery. This is now clearly indicated in the Methods
4. An a posteriori calculation of study power has been included in the Methods. Our study would be able to detect a difference of 0.15 between two proportions with a significance level of 0.05 and a power of approximately 0.80.
5. An example of study interview is now included in the Appendix A
6. The independent variables and confounders are: age at MS onset, age at conception (baseline), disease duration at conception and EDSS at conception (baseline), DMDs before pregnancy, number of relapses in the year before pregnancy and during pregnancy, exclusive breastfeeding. They are listed in “Statistical analysis”.
7. The baseline EDSS is EDSS at conception

Reviewer # Amir Hadi Maghzi
1. References has been corrected, as suggested

Reviewer # Yara D Fragoso

The reviewer suggested to re-submit the paper as Brief Report. We are still waiting for a decision by the Editorial Board on this point. In the meantime we have modified our paper following the remaining suggestions.

Reviewer # Peter Albrecht

1. The definition “multiple sclerosis women” has been corrected as suggested
2. An example of study interview is now included in the Appendix A
3. Meaning of “vaginal delivery with or without assistance” has been specified, as requested