Author's response to reviews

Title: Trends of Preterm Birth and Low Birth Weight in Japan: A One Hospital-Based Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
December 9, 2012
Mika Gissler
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Dear Dr. Gissler;

On behalf of the authors, I am pleased to submit our revised manuscript entitled “Trends of Preterm Birth and Low Birth Weight in Japan: A One Hospital-Based Study” for possible publication as an Original Research Article in the BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. The revised article consists of 251 words for abstract, 2603 words for main text, 3 tables, 1 figure, and 1 online table.

Following the Editor’s comment, we carefully revised our article, and our point-by-point responses are attached.
Responses to comments from Editor

Thank you very much for your positive evaluation. Our responses to each of your suggestions are detailed below.

We are pleased to inform you that the editors have now decided to accept your manuscript. However, before we can proceed, we will need you to make some changes to your manuscript. We strongly urge you to make these changes promptly, as we cannot proceed to the next process until we have received a version containing the changes.

"Minor corrections to be made:

1. Use singleton births instead of single births.
   Response:
   Following your comment, we replaced “single births” by “singleton births”.

2. Double-check the presentation of categories for age (24-34.9 and ≤35), BMI (18.5-24.9 and ≥25) and maternal weight gain (5-9.9, 10-14.9, ≥15) in text and tables. You can drop the ?unit? after BMI.
   Response:
   We checked the categorization in page 7 and Table 1. We also removed “unit” after BMI.

3. It could be easier to the reader, if Results and Discussion are separated.
   Response:
   Following your comment, we separated Results and Discussion (page 9).

4. Close the gap between percentage units and percentages (for example 15.4% instead of 15.4 %, page 9).
   Response:
   Thank you for your suggestion. We closed the gap between percentage units and percentages.

5. Add one decimal for the 10% in sentence "10% for clinics in 1996", page 10.
Response:

Following your comment, we checked the percentage and amended the sentence as follows (page 10, lines 17-19):

“Indeed, the proportion of caesarean sections has been steadily rising in Japan (14.7% for hospitals and 9.9% for clinics in 1996 to 23.3% and 13.0% in 2008, respectively)”

6. Correct the references according to journal style.
Response:

Following your comment, we checked the references.

7. Table 1, correct the last category for parity to "three or more" instead of "more than three"
Response:

Thank you for your suggestion. We replaced “more than three” by “three or more”.

8. Double check that the legends in Figure 1 are complete.”
Response:

Following your comment, we checked the legend.

We thank you for the opportunity to resubmit. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,
Takashi Yorifuji MD, PhD, on behalf of all authors