Author's response to reviews

Title: Cocaine use during pregnancy assessed by hair analysis in a Canary Islands cohort

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Author's covering letter for resubmission

**Title:** Cocaine use during pregnancy assessed by hair analysis in a Canary Islands cohort

**Authors:** Joya X, Gomez-Culebras M, Callejón A, Friguls B, Puig C, Ortigosa S, Morini L, Garcia-Algar O, Vall O

**Version:** 1

**Date:** June 28, 2011

Dear Editor:

Through the electronic submission system of the Journal, we have uploaded the manuscript entitled "COCAINE USE DURING PREGNANCY ASSESSED BY HAIR ANALYSIS IN A CANARY ISLANDS COHORT", which is resubmitted for the consideration of the Editorial Board of BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth for the section Originals.

Drug use during pregnancy is difficult to ascertain, and maternal reports are likely to be inaccurate. A toxicological analysis of hair was used to detect chronic recreational drug use during pregnancy. Hair analysis showed 2.6% positivity for cocaine and its metabolites. Use of cocaine during pregnancy was associated with behavioral patterns with potentially harmful effects for the health of the baby. The results of the study demonstrate significant cocaine use by pregnant women in Canary Islands and underline the usefulness of hair analysis for the diagnosis of chronic drug use.

Neither the entire paper nor any part of its content has been published previously or is being submitted to another journal.

All authors have seen and approved the uploaded paper.

We appreciate very much your attention to this submission.

Sincerely yours,

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Authors contribution

XJ, was an important laboratory technician in biomarkers analyses, and was the main contributor in writing the manuscript.
MGC, analyzed the mother-infant data, reviewed the literature and the final manuscript, and contributed in writing the manuscript.
AC, was the responsible of field work with pregnant women, and contributed in writing the manuscript.
BF, analyzed the mother-infant data, and was a contributor in writing the manuscript.
CP, analyzed the mother-infant data, and was the statistical expert.
SO, was the responsible of data organization, and contributed in writing the manuscript.
LM, was the major expert in laboratory analysis of biomarkers in alternative matrices, and contributed in writing the manuscript.
OGA, analyzed the mother-infant data, reviewed the literature, and was a major contributor in writing the manuscript.
OV, was the paediatrician responsible for coordination of data and samples flow, and contributed in writing the manuscript.

All authors have seen and approved the final manuscript.
Comments: (we have made all the suggested changes):

Journal Editor Officer:

1. Title Page: Please include the Email addresses of each Author. Word count and date in the title page are not required for BMC series journals.

Changes have been made.

2. Abstract: Please check the instructions for authors to ensure that your abstract follows the correct structure for this journal and article type.

Abstract has been modified according to instructions for authors.

3. Structure: Keywords are not required for BMC-series journals.

Keywords have been deleted.

4. Competing interests: Please include a ‘Competing interests’ section after the Conclusions. If there are none to declare, please write ‘The authors declare that they have no competing interests’. Please check the instructions for authors on the journal website for a full list of questions to consider when writing your competing interests statement.

Competing interests have been included.

5. Authors’ contributions: In order to give appropriate credit to each author of a paper, the individual contributions of authors to the manuscript should be specified in this section.

Author’s contributions section has been included.

6. Questionnaire: please include a copy of your questionnaire as an Additional File, properly cited in the Methods section.

The additional file has been included.