Author's response to reviews

Title: A qualitative study exploring women's beliefs about physical activity after stillbirth

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept the revised manuscript entitled, “A qualitative study exploring women’s beliefs about physical activity after stillbirth” to BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. I have pasted a table below with responses to the few reviewers’ comments. The authors believe that this paper is innovative and adds to the literature because it: 1) provides information about physical activity in a population rarely studied, 2) provides information for designing interventions that could help to improve depressive symptoms in women who have experienced stillbirth, and 3) provides further justification of the need for health care providers to provide information about physical activity to women during and after pregnancy.

All authors have read and approved the revised paper. There are no conflicts of interest. The manuscript discloses all financial support for the work. A portion of the work was funded by The Olson Center for Women’s Health at The University of Nebraska Medical Center. The manuscript also describes IRB approval and granting institution.

We look forward to the opportunity to have our work published in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Huberty, PhD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewer</th>
<th>Reviewer Comment</th>
<th>Author’s response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reviewer 1</td>
<td>Table 2: In title, “participants” is spelled incorrectly. Also the footnote symbol is not defined.</td>
<td>The word is now spelled correctly and footnotes were removed as they were unnecessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewer 1</td>
<td>Flow chart: The flow chart as arranged is somewhat difficult to understand, with rows adding up to more than the sample size. Rather than have the figure, perhaps instead please just put the information in the text since it is not that difficult to report.</td>
<td>We have added this information as text and are not submitting the flow chart.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviewer 1</td>
<td>I suggest not abbreviating physical activity</td>
<td>All physical activity abbreviations</td>
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</table>
Please provide the time period from stillbirth to interview to the abstract as well. This has been added to the abstract.

Since physical activity prior to pregnancy was collected, I encourage the authors to add this to Table 1 as part of the descriptive information on the sample. We have added the question we asked to table 1 as well as the information about how many were active in the demographics table (Table 2).

I strongly encourage the authors to submit the tables as part of the paper. We had submitted the tables in the word document – we are not certain why they weren’t showing up in the document. The current draft has tables in the main document after the references. These have all been modified and we have read through to correct others we were able to notice. Thanks for this comment.

| Reviewer 2 | The manuscript should be proofread prior to publication to correct minor grammatical errors (missing words, punctuation, etc.). A few I noticed: -Introduction, paragraph 2, last sentence -Methods, paragraph 2, need end quote -Results, Benefits to Physical Activity, first sentence -Results, "More Children," sentence 1 | These have all been modified and we have read through to correct others we were able to notice. Thanks for this comment. |