Author's response to reviews

Title: The effects of spinal anaesthesia for elective caesarean section on uterine and umbilical arterial pulsatility indexes in normotensive and chronic hypertensive pregnant women: a prospective, longitudinal study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover Letter

Name of Corresponding Author: Luíš Guedes-Martins, MD
Manuscript Title: The effects of spinal anaesthesia for elective caesarean section on uterine and umbilical arterial pulsatility indexes in normotensive and chronic hypertensive pregnant women: a prospective, longitudinal study.
MS ID: 1639466618124671

Dear Editors,

BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth

Please find attached a revised version of our manuscript ‘The effects of spinal anaesthesia for elective caesarean section on uterine and umbilical arterial pulsatility indexes in normotensive and chronic hypertensive pregnant women: a prospective, longitudinal study,’ which we are resubmitting for publication as an original article in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. Your comments were highly insightful and enabled us to greatly improve the quality of our manuscript. The following pages detail our point-by-point responses to each editorial comment.

We hope that the revisions in the manuscript and our accompanying responses will be sufficient to make our manuscript suitable for publication in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Signature

Date

Aug 05, 2014

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Editorial Comment

The authors have adequately addressed prior comments in the previous cycle of peer review. Only a handful of minor revisions are needed.
P4L77: change to affects

Response: This has been done.
P4L81: 'such' as

Response: This has been done.
P5L98: add 'among women with chronic hypertension'.....

Response: This has been done.
P6L103: remove 'pregnant'. Pregnancy assumed from earlier statement indicating that you are investigating cesarean section.

Response: This has been done.
P12L291: Reword to simply state: Blood pressure data are presented in Table 2.

Response: This has been done.
P12L298: Reword to simply state: Uta-PI and U-PI data before and after spinal anaesthesia are presented in Table 3.

Response: This has been done.
P13L303-5: This sentence is a little unclear. As you describe the effect of time later in the text, I advise removing this sentence.

Response: This has been done.

Figure 1: Much improved. In the legend, please provide text to describe the contents of the box and whiskers (presume mean, median, 25%ile, 75%ile, and 97.5% CIs. Define the MAP abbreviation in the legend.

Response: This has been done.
P15L247: shown.

Response: This has been done.
P15P350-357: The text here needs refining. Suggest the following: 'Although spinal anaesthesia is the most commonly used method of providing surgical anesthesia for elective cesarean delivery, spinal hypotension can commonly occur in upto 70% of patients.(add ref: Acta Anaesthesiol Scand 2010; 54: 909?21). However, the influence of spinal hypotension on uteroplacental perfusion among women with chronic hypertension has been poorly examined.' Next sentence to start = 'To analyze the effect.....'

Response: This has been done.
P18L442-P19L444: I suggest revising the last sentence, esp. as you did not study any parameter beyond the initial period after spinal anesthesia. Therefore, any comment related to the time for foetal extraction is speculative. With this in mind, I suggest a concluding sentence as
follows: 'More research is needed to assess the relationships between U-PI and Uta-PI values with neonatal outcomes among women with hypertensive disorders undergoing spinal anesthesia.'

Response: This has been done.