Author's response to reviews

Title: Maternal positioning to correct occipito-posterior fetal position in labour: a randomised controlled trial

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Version: 3
Date: 13 February 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dr Peter O’Donovan
Executive Editor
BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth
12 February 2014

Dear Dr O’Donovan,

Re: Study protocol entitled “Maternal positioning to correct occipito-posterior fetal position in labour: a randomised controlled trial” by Gitter M-J et al

We have pleasure in submitting the above-mentioned study protocol for consideration for publication in BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth.

The main objective of this study is to assess the efficacy of the hands and knees’ position to correct fetal head position in occipito-posterior (OP) position during the first stage of labour.

We believe that the protocol of the present study will be of interest to the readers of the Journal given that the OP position increases the risk of maternal and fetal complication during labour and delivery. Currently, medical and midwife teams are powerless when faced with this diagnosis during the first stage of labour. According to the literature, specific maternal positions, such as fitted hands and knees, could facilitate the rotation of OP to the anterior position. These postures appear easy to implement, but their efficacy needs to be assessed in a large group of women. If the intervention is effective, it would reduce maternal and fetal complications during labour and delivery, such as instrumented or caesarean delivery. We consider that it is important to evaluate all interventions that may help fetuses to rotate in the anterior position and thus improve the safety of the maternal birth experience.

Requested responses in your e-mail of yesterday, Monday, the 10th February 2014:

1. Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation

Before we can proceed with your submission, can you please forward copies of all ethical approval and funding approval for our records. These documents should be sent as email attachments to the following email address, BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com. Please DO NOT upload these documents as additional files in the submission system. If your documents are not in English, please could you provide translated versions of the relevant parts. These should be endorsed and signed by a contactable person at the institution. Please also include the original documents. Can you please confirm in your cover letter that you have forwarded the requested documentation to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

Yes I did today
2. Funding

A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/award from a charitable foundation). If a study has not received external funding, then the study protocol will be sent for peer-review with a member of our Editorial Board. If a study has received funding/assistance from a commercial organization, this should be clearly stated in the 'competing interests' section of your manuscript, and the study protocol will be sent for peer-review by a member of our Editorial Board. Can you please confirm whether your study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body.

Yes I confirm that I received a national grant for the study (Swiss National Foundation for Research) and the protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body.

3. Study status

The protocol must be for a study that is ongoing. An ‘ongoing’ study is defined as one where the investigators are still collecting, or analyzing data. Can you please confirm what stage your study is currently at.

With your definition, I confirm the “ongoing” status of the study. We just have we completed the recruitment phase this month and we will proceed to the data analysis when all data will be collecting for or participants. Results won’t be submitted for publication before September 2014 I think.

4. Related Articles

Can you please clarify whether any publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal. If so, can you please provide a list of the related articles.

As you can read in point 3, I confirm that any publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal.

List of related articles: results in PubMed today with ((occipito posterior position) and (delivery or labor or labour))

Can midwives promote normality in an occipitoposterior labour through autonomous practice?
Jackson R.
PMID:24386702[PubMed - in process]

Does occiput posterior position in the second stage of labour increase the operative delivery rate?
Carseldine WJ, Phipps H, Zawada SF, Campbell NT, Ludlow JP, Krishnan SY, De Vries BS.
PMID: 23346873[PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Management of occiput posterior position in the second stage of labour: a survey of obstetric practice in Australia and New Zealand.
Phipps H, de Vries B, Lee PN, Hyett JA.
Establishing the accuracy and acceptability of abdominal ultrasound to define the foetal head position in the second stage of labour: a validation study.
Ramphul M, Kennelly M, Murphy DJ
PMID: 22762840 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of our work and we look forward to receiving the comments of the editorial committee in due course.

Yours sincerely,

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