Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors associated with tocolytic hospitalizations in Taiwan: evidence from a population-based and longitudinal study from 1997 to 2004

Authors:

Ke-Zong Ma (kezong@kmu.edu.tw)
Edward C Norton (ecnorton@umich.edu)
Eing-Mei Tsai (tsajeing@yahoo.com)
Shou-Yih D Lee (sylee@email.unc.edu)

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Norton:

My colleagues join me to thank you for the wonderful news.

We have made the changes suggested by the two referees. All the changes appear in our manuscript (attached) in red font. We also provide on the next page point-by-point responses to the referees' comments.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Ke-Zong Ma
Assistant Professor

Referee 2

1) The updated tables just need to have some differing font sizes amended, and consistency applied to commas in the figures (e.g. some are 18000 and some are 18,000).

Response: We have corrected these problems in Tables 1 and 2.

2) On page 15, reference 36 is probably meant to be reference 38?

Response: Yes, it is corrected.

Referee 3:

I have one minor essential revision. Page 11, discussion section. When the authors mention glucocorticoids. This needs to be reworded, as these are not tocolytic agents. One possible term could be "antenatal steroids." For the author's understanding, there are two different therapies that are usually given in
conjunction for cases of preterm labor. Tocolytic agents are given to try and stop, or at least delay, preterm labor. Glucocorticoids are a separate agent given to speed fetal lung maturity.

Response: We have separated tocolytic agents (e.g., ritodrine and nifedipine) and antenatal steroids (e.g., glucocorticoids) in the discussion on page 11.