Author’s response to reviews

Title: Calcium, phosphate, magnesium, and alkaline phosphatase gestational age-specific reference intervals for preterm infants

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Please find the submitted manuscript: “Calcium, phosphate, magnesium and alkaline phosphatase gestational age-specific reference intervals for preterm infants”.

This paper describes our study of reference intervals from cord blood for preterm infants: calcium, phosphate, magnesium, alkaline phosphatase, and albumin-adjusted calcium. To our knowledge, this is the first attempt to use a comprehensive examination of cord blood to produce reference intervals for these lab values for preterm infants. This study not only documented the lab values among more than 500 infants, most premature, but also examined for influence variables such as gestational age, gender, multiple birth, pregnancy-induced-hypertension, size for gestational age, and maternal diseases such as diabetes. Currently clinicians rely upon very small studies of cord blood and term infants, and expert opinion to inform the interpretation of laboratory results for preterm infants. We anticipate interest of our paper among staff in neonatal intensive care.

The manuscript has not been published in another journal and is being submitted only to BioMed Central Pediatrics. No material submitted as part of a manuscript infringes existing copyrights, or the rights of a third party. All authors have read and agreed to the content of this manuscript and the tables, and this project has been performed with the approval of our local ethics committee, as we noted in the manuscript.

We value the open access of BioMed Central Pediatrics and believe that this Journal is the best one for publication of this work. We have had the pleasure of publishing with BioMed Central in the past, and I have had the great pleasure of publishing with BioMed Central Pediatrics. We have enjoyed the benefits of open access as well as the ability for us as authors to observe the ongoing accesses of the papers over time.

I am not sure whether we have the correct priority for the lab values in terms of mg/dL as the first version, and mmol/L as the second. Please let us know if these should be reversed for your Journal.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding the publication of this work in BioMed Central Pediatrics.

Respectively submitted,

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