Author's response to reviews

Title: Perinatal Mortality of Pregnancies with Omphalocele: Data from the Chinese National Birth Defects Monitoring Network, 1996-2006

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Dear editor,

We would like to submit the enclosed manuscript entitled “Perinatal mortality of pregnancies with omphalocele: Data from the Chinese National Birth Defects Monitoring Network, 1996-2006”, which we wish to be considered for publication as a research article in BMC Pediatrics.

Omphalocele is one of the more common anterior abdominal wall defects and has a substantial risk of infant mortality and morbidity. However, previous studies regarding the mortality rate of omphalocele are limited. There is a lack of the large scale general population data to estimate the perinatal mortality of omphalocele. In addition, though many previous studies have reported the death risk of omphalocele with associated other anomalies and prenatal diagnosis, the magnitude of effect estimates between the perinatal mortality of omphalocele and non-isolated omphalocele and prenatal ultrasound diagnosis has not been assessed separately. In this paper, using data of 11-years consecutive national birth defects registry, we estimated the perinatal mortality rate of 52.36% and independently found the late fetal death rate of prenatal ultrasound diagnosed omphalocele was 15.91-fold higher than that of postnatal diagnosed cases, whereas the late fetal death rate of non-isolated omphalocele was 2.64-fold higher than that of isolated cases. Further, we reported that infants with non-isolated omphalocele had 2.96-fold higher risk of early neonatal death rate than isolated cases. Thus, we have provided an evidence that prenatal diagnosed omphalocele is more likely to have the late fetal death risk, whereas omphaloceles with associated other anomalies have a higher early neonatal death risk. These findings would have an implication of clinical counseling and the pregnancy and delivery care and management of pregnancies with omphalocele.

We declare that this submitted manuscript is an original work, which has not
been previously published in whole or in part, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors listed have read the complete manuscript and have approved that the work is ready for submission. All authors also declare that they have no actual or potential competing interests and they are responsible for the manuscript’s contents.

We deeply appreciate your consideration of our manuscript, and we look forward to receiving comments from the reviewers.

Yours sincerely

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