Author's response to reviews

Title: "Early identification of brain injury in infants with hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy at high risk for severe impairments: accuracy of MRI performed in the first days of life"

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Dear Sir

All authors signing the manuscript “Early identification of brain injury in infants with hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy at high risk for severe impairments: accuracy of MRI performed in the first days of life” have participated in the elaboration of this manuscript.

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Authors’ contribution. TA, reviewed data collection, prepared and wrote the first draft of this paper, and coordinated manuscript revisions and submission. MA, reviewed data collection, revised and edited the manuscript. MR and JM scored MR images and revised and edited the manuscript data collection. GA, reviewed data collection and edited the manuscript. AGA planned and designed the study; revised and edited the manuscript. All the authors have seen and approved the final version.

This prospective study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Review Board of the Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, University of Barcelona.

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In this manuscript entitled “Early identification of brain injury in infants with hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy at high risk for severe impairments: accuracy of MRI performed in the first days of life” we present the results of
a prospective study in HIE newborns treated with hypothermia. Brain injury was evaluated in two sequential MRI scans including DWI in the early examinations. To our knowledge there is scarce literature about this issue. We would like to share our results because they may be useful for clinicians especially if there are doubts about the prognosis or inconsistencies with the other prognostic tools. According to the high correlation between early and late sequential MRI we have observed, scans performed around the fourth day of life can be useful for neonatologist and parents for prognostic proposes and for reorienting care.

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