Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk of Cardio-Respiratory Dysfunction in Preterm Infants Placed in Car Seats: A Cross-Sectional Study

Version: 2 Date: 28 January 2005

Reviewer: Anne Greenough

Reviewer’s report:

General

Dr Ojadi and colleagues have tested the hypothesis that the infant's maturity would influence the risk as well as severity of cardio respiratory dysfunction during predischarge car seat testing.

Comments

1. A convenience sample has been chosen; it is important to document what differences could be reliably documented in the sample size investigated and hence the readers can assess which negative results are due to type two errors.

2. The repeatability of the outcome measures needs to be given, so again the reader can assess if the negative results are reliable.

3. The authors study the infants twice in the supine position, the results in the car seat should be compared to the average of the two supine position examinations to eliminate any bias as to timing of examination.

4. The authors do not introduce periodic breathings influence as an a priori hypothesis; this needs to be justified.

5. The results could be displayed in a more user friendly way less text and more tables.

6. There are a large number of comparisons it would be important to know this was taken into account when determining the limit of significance.

7. The patient population excludes all high risk cases who are most likely to have pre existing cardio respiratory problems; the paper would have much more interest if such infants were included.

8. The authors acknowledge an important limitation of their study is they do not incorporate the duration of the cardio respiratory event into their analysis.

9. Were any of the infants taking medication for gastro oesophageal reflux.

Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes