Author's response to reviews

Title: Case-control study of sudden infant death syndrome in Lithuania, 1997-2000

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Answers to the comments of the reviewer Peter S. Blair on the article

CASE-CONTROL STUDY OF SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME
IN LITHUANIA, 1997-2000

Major points
i. Some variants of variables have been combined. All variables with an expected cell <5 have been excluded from the multivariate analysis. We are sorry to note that the number of cases and controls wearing a cap during sleep except odds ratio and confidence interval was erroneous in the previous version of the paper.
ii. In the course of correlation analysis some correlates have been excluded from the multivariate analysis in the last version of the paper to avoid any imbalance of the multivariate model. So, the final multivariate model was balanced.
iii. Fisher’s exact test has been utilized for small cell frequencies. All significant findings have been commented on in the discussion.
iv. The abstract has been corrected and presented according to your advice.

Minor points
i. P values earlier expressed as 0.000 have been corrected and expressed as <0.001.
ii. Variables with small cell frequencies where Fisher’s exact test was utilized have been indicated in Table 1 with the footnote.
iii. Odds ratios of all variables with an expected cell <5 where Fisher’s exact test was utilized have been denoted as n/a (not applicable) in Table 1.
iv. Two variants of the variable concerning parental smoking during pregnancy have been combined. So, “any of the parents smoked” and “both of the parents smoked” have been both re-named as “exposure to smoking during pregnancy when just one or both of the parents smoked”.
v. “Sleeping position” means how the infants had been put down to sleep as mentioned in Table 1.
vi. The fact that prone and side sleeping positions both carried no increased risk of SIDS compared with supine because of a rare prone sleeping and more prevalent side than supine sleeping in the controls as well as the cases of SIDS has been mentioned in the abstract.
vii. Till now no observational analytic study or risk reducing campaigns concerning SIDS had been performed in Lithuania and data about SIDS were fragmental. This fact has been mentioned in the background and the discussion.

We appreciate the suggestions and really valuable comments. In case you decide that this work is not of the required level, we still are very grateful for the contribution you have made for the improvement of our paper.

Sincerely,
Authors
Answers to the comments of the reviewer Josef Milerad on the article

CASE-CONTROL STUDY OF SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME IN LITHUANIA, 1997-2000

Minor points

- We agree that some variables are interrelated. In the course of correlation analysis some correlates have been excluded from the multivariate analysis in the last version of the paper to avoid any imbalance of the multivariate model.
- All variables with an expected cell <5 and some correlates have been excluded from the multivariate analysis. This has been mentioned in the Multivariate results.
- Sleeping prone has been found to be an especially strong and consistent risk factor across different societies and countries except Lithuania. So the issue that prone and side sleeping positions both carried no increased risk of SIDS compared with supine in Lithuania in our view is very important.

We do appreciate your comments and detailed remarks.

Sincerely,
Authors