Author's response to reviews

Title: Multidisciplinary Approach to Management of Maternal Asthma (MAMMA[copyright]): The PROTOCOL for a randomized controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial committee of BMC Public Health,

Thank you for considering our manuscript titled ‘Multidisciplinary Approach to Management of Maternal Asthma’. We have carefully gone through the reviewer’s comments and made changes where appropriate. Please see our response to the reviewer’s and editor’s comments in red.

In regards to reviewer’s comments:

• There is no identification as randomised controlled trial in the title.
  Amended, see page 1 – lines 2-4

• The objective of the study with the corresponding hypothesis should be clearly specified.
  Amended, see page 7 lines 128-131

• The type of randomised controlled trial design must be described in detail in the main protocol, including allocation ratio as it is described in the abstract.
  Amended see pages 7-8, lines 139-142

• The method used to generate the random allocation sequence and the person (s) who will generate the random allocation sequence, the person (s) who will enrol the participant and also the person (s) who will assign the participants to the interventions in comparison must be clearly detailed.
  Amended, see page 9, lines 187-196

• The method to blind the outcome assessors to the interventions in comparison must be described.
  Amended, see page 12, lines 254-260

• The flow chart of the study does not accomplish with the CONSORT requirements so it must be redrafted.
  The flow chart included was intended to describe the intervention not flow of participant movement. We have included another flow chart to show participant movement (see figure one) and kept the previous flow chart with the title ‘figure 2’. The figure one flow chart is in accordance with the CONSORT requirements. See lines 138-139 for figure one referral in text and line 201 for figure 2.

• The sample size (n: 29 participants per group) is not sufficient to draw any conclusion or to generate new hypothesis with confidence in terms of maternal and perinatal secondary outcomes.
  Noted, our primary and secondary outcomes actually do not include assessing the intervention’s effect on reducing maternal and perinatal hazards; we are only documenting them (see page 11, lines 237-245). This is primarily a pilot study focusing on the primary asthma endpoint. We have amended this section and added more detail to avoid confusion (see page 11, lines 245-249). We have also emphasised the trial is a pilot study (see lines 28 and 135)

• Dummy tables of Characteristics of participants at trial entry, Adherence to trial interventions and Trial primary and secondary outcomes by group must be included.
  Amended, see tables 1, 2 and 3. See lines 154-155 for table one referral in text, line 219 for table 2 and lines 248-249 for table 3.
**In regards to the editorial changes:**

- Abstract - Please could you structure your abstract according to the guidelines provided at this page: [http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/abstracts](http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/abstracts)
  We are unsure precisely what you require. This is a study protocol and we have followed the abstract structure for study protocols according to the BMC Public Health author guidelines. The guideline states to only use the subheadings; background, methods/design, discussion and trial registration. However the hyperlink leads to the abstract structure of a full original research paper.

- Please remove your Authors qualifications from the Submission system (i.e. Prof. Dr.).
  Amended

We thank the reviewer for his time and the committee for the opportunity to contribute to the BMC Public Health journal.

We look forward to hearing from you soon,

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any concerns

Yours sincerely,

Angelina Lim, Michael Abramson, Kay Stewart, Susan Walker and Johnson George