Author's response to reviews

Title: Oral Clefts with Associated Anomalies: Findings in the Hungarian Congenital Abnormality Registry

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We thank the BMC Oral Health and Dr. Peter Mossey for the very insightful critiques to our previous revised version of the article. We have addressed all the issues that were raised and revised the manuscript accordingly. We believe that these changes have improved substantially the overall quality of the paper and we hope that it will be now acceptable for publication.

"Firstly, I note that the title has been altered slightly to include syndromic, and I am not sure that this is strictly correct, and the original title was probably more correct considering the literal translation of syndromic. My recommendation would be either to retain the original or alternatively use the title Syndromic Oral Clefts: Findings in the Hungarian Congenital Abnormality Registry. However I will leave the final decision on this to the authors."

We followed Dr. Mossey's suggestion and retained the original title ("Oral clefts with associated anomalies...").

"I recommended that the second sentence in the background stated that the reported prevalence is more correct and should be inserted. While the Tolarova and Cervenka (1998) study is now included in the bibliography, there is no mention of the classification system used in the paper, and I think that a comment on this would be useful and very much in context."

We appreciate Dr. Mossey's suggestion. Instead, we have added a reference to a very recent publication by our group which describes in detail the methodological aspects that explain the wide variability in the prevalence of OCs with associated anomalies.

"I note the comparison with the Stoll (2000) paper has been dropped, and while I agree that this comparison was fraught with difficulties, comparison between multiple datasets where good detail on methodology exists would potentially be a very useful exercise."

We agree, however, we have previously shown (Wyszynski et al., 2005) that that effort is practically impossible to do with meaningful results.

"Schisis Association: This condition described in the paper is extremely interesting, relatively common and yet is not a universally used descriptor. I think that this deserves more attention in the paper and perhaps even a table?"

As mentioned in the manuscript, the schisis association in this population has been already described by Czeizel (1981).

"Conclusions: this paragraph on conclusions is much improved, but for this manuscript to be a useful contribution to the literature a list of recommendations based on the deficiencies picked up by this study would be extremely useful e.g. something along the lines of:

a) improved systems for birth defects ascertainment.

..."

Done.