Author's response to reviews

Title: Prediction models for short children born small for gestational age (SGA) covering the total growth phase. Analyses based on data from KIGS (Pfizer International Growth Database)

Authors:

Michael B Ranke (Michael.Ranke@med.uni-tuebingen.de)
Anders Lindberg (anders.lindberg@pfizer.com)

Version: 4 Date: 10 May 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
To
Adrian Alcroft, BA
Executive Editor
BMC series journals
BioMed Central

Dear Editor,

thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to the comments of the reviewers and to revise the article accordingly. We hope that the MS is now suitable for publication. Unfortunately, due to technical problems (e-mail) the correspondence was unduly delayed after March 14.

Sincerely yours

Michael B. Ranke, MD, FRCP (Edin)
for the authors
Prediction models for short children born small for gestational age (SGA) covering the total growth phase. Analyses based on data from KIGS (Pfizer International Growth Database)

Response to Reviewer’s (Maria de Ridder) report

Reviewer’s Comment:

I still think it is a pity that the authors, having very valuable data to validate these prediction models, do not present R-squares obtained in the validation data and neat validation plots.

We have added the following text and a new Fig2a,b:

Validation of 3\textsuperscript{rd} year prepubertal prediction model for SGA children

A subgroup of 34 children were randomly assigned from the total cohort identified for the validation of the derived model. The characteristics of these patients were not different compared to model group. The correlation between the predicted and the observed height velocity in the validation group was: \( R=0.53 \) (\( p = 0.001 \)) and the Studentized Residual was 0.0 +/- 0.5 [Figure 2a,b].

Reviewer’s Comment:

The point of fourth year growth during GH treatment compared to spontaneous normal growth (Discussion) is not cleared. In this study HV in cm/yr is analysed, of children of various ages. Was it checked that these HV was comparable with normal growth, or does this conclusion come from other studies?

Reply:

This conclusion comes from the analysis of our own data, which show, that in relation to age (considering puberty/no puberty) the observed HV cm/yr /change in height SDS on GH is just above average (see Table 2). We decided not to change the text.