Author's response to reviews

Title: Prenatal exposure to cooking gas and respiratory health in infants is modified by tobacco smoke exposure and diet. Results from the INMA birth cohort study.

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Version: 3
Date: 11 November 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Editor of
Environmental Health

Valencia, Spain, 10/november/2013

We enclose our original manuscript entitled “Prenatal exposure to cooking gas and respiratory health in infants is modified by tobacco smoke exposure and diet. Results from the INMA birth cohort study.” by Ana Esplugues et al. Following the reviewers’ comments, changes have been made in our manuscript. Below we present an answer (in blue and in italics) to each referee’s comment along with an indication of the changes made. In the manuscript, new text is highlighted in yellow.

We sincerely thank the editor and the reviewers for the helpful comments and suggestions that contributed to the improvement of the manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

Ana Esplugues on behalf of the authors
Date: November, 10th 2013

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Reviewer's report

Title:

Prenatal exposure to cooking gas and respiratory health in infants is modified by tobacco smoke exposure and diet. Results from the INMA birth cohort study.

Version: 2

Date: 24 September 2013

Reviewer: Deborah Jarvis

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential revision

The following sentence is not quite right and I cannot follow the argument being made - ‘One of the factors in the etiology of otitis is the inflammation of the mucosal linings of the airy spaces, fact that is essential for the structural and functional restoration of damaged ear tissues [32] . Other factor is the increased oxidative status that has been demonstrated with the increase in serum oxidants [32,33]’

Following reviewer comment we had rewrite this paragraph (page 11).

Level of interest:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review:

No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

I have no competing interests' below.
Reviewer's report

Title:

Prenatal exposure to cooking gas and respiratory health in infants is modified by tobacco smoke exposure and diet. Results from the INMA birth cohort study.

Version: 2

Date: 30 September 2013

Reviewer: Tanya Turnovska

Reviewer's report:

I would like to thank the authors for their answers to critical remarks. I accept the explanations given, but there is apparent lack of detailisation of individual elements or inability to objectify the status of others post factum. Moreover, I believe that authors rely first and foremost on the correlations established which actually demonstrate rather the unidirectionality of 2 phenomena, than any relationship causality. In my opinion the work contains too many conventionalities, both in terms of indoor pollution objective status, as well as in terms of mother’s and child’s nutrition. Conclusion: I find the work interesting and I think that it should be made available to scientific community, but only on the condition that a text, specifying data preliminary nature and the necessity for the research to be continued with opportunities to specify the omissions identified, is added to the discussion, conclusion and summary.

Following reviewer comment we have add some sentences, in summary, discussion (page 11-13) and in conclusions (pages 13-14), explaining more detailing the limitation of have not measured indoor air pollution levels and have not included child nutrition data during the first year, also we have indicated that research have must be completed in future.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests.