Author's response to reviews

Title: Maternal characteristics associated with the dietary intake of nitrates, nitrites, and nitrosamines in U.S. women of child-bearing age: a cross-sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors:

We have addressed all the editorial comments as follows:

Editorial Comment:

Author groups: please include the name of the group within the list of authors, by adding the name to the `first name` box; and the bracketed abbreviation to the `last name` box in the submission system.
Please remove the names of the members of the group from the title page and place them in the Acknowledgements, as they are to be acknowledged as members of the study group. The group's contribution as a whole can be given in the authors contributions section.

Authors’ Response:

The format of authorship cannot be changed for two reasons. First, six of the authors are not collaborators on the National Birth Defects Prevention Study. Second, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the National Birth Defects Prevention Study Data-sharing Committee have specified that all manuscripts that use the National Birth Defects Prevention Study data must list the specific paper authors and then add the National Birth Defects Prevention Study at the end of the list of authors. We have added the following statement in the acknowledgements to clarify the contribution of the National Birth Defects Prevention Study as follows: We thank the participating families, staff, and scientists from all sites in the National Birth Defects Prevention Study.

Editorial comment:

Affiliations: please include the country for each affiliation.

Authors’ Response:
The country has been added for each affiliation.

Editorial comment:

Table 6: this table currently runs over more than three pages. Please can you resubmit this table as an additional file, remembering to then remove the table from the manuscript file. Please remember to then renumber any remaining tables accordingly, and to alter the references to the tables within the text.

Authors’ response:

Table 6 has been removed from the main manuscript file and converted into Additional File 3. References to this table have been removed from the manuscript and instead, this table is now referenced as Additional File 3.
Editorial comment:

Additional files - Please add a section titled "Additional files" at the end of the manuscript (after the tables) listing the following for each file: the title of the data, and a short description of the data. An example from another paper is given below.
Additional files
Additional file 1
Title: Statistical analysis of oxygen-GPCR interaction.
Description: The data provided represent the statistical analysis of the numerous REDOX states of different GPCR's

Authors’ response:

We have added a section after the tables that lists and gives a brief description of contents of the three additional files.

Editorial comment:

Table citations: please cite each table individually, do not use ranges (eg 'tables 1-3' etc).

Authors’ response:

We have revised the first sentence in paragraph 4 on page 10 to read: We summarize the associations found between maternal characteristics and quartiles of dietary intake for nitrates, nitrites, total nitrites, and nitrosamines in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively and also present the crude and adjusted odds ratios for significant variables included in the model. We have also revised the first sentence, paragraph 2 on page 11 to read: Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 also respectively display the crude and adjusted odds ratios with 95% confidence intervals for the association of consumption of nitrate, nitrite, total nitrite, and nitrosamine intake in the highest quartile and maternal characteristics.

Editorial comment:

Minor revisions (We can make these changes on resubmission, although it will speed up publication of your manuscript if you do them while making the major changes above).

Manuscript format: please remove all underlining and yellow highlighting.

Author response: All underlining and yellow highlighting related to revisions have been removed.

Abbreviations list: please format this as a paragraph rather than a list.
Author response: We have formatted the abbreviations list as a paragraph.

Sincerely,

Jean Brender, PhD