Author's response to reviews

Title: How effective is Ametop 4% gel, before a peripherally inserted central catheter, in reducing procedural pain in infants: a randomized double-blind placebo controlled trial [ISRCTN75884221]

Authors:

Brigitte Lemyre (blemyre@ottawahospital.on.ca)
Rebecca Sherlock (rebeccalynsherlock@hotmail.com)
Debora Hogan (Hogan@cheo.on.ca)
Isabelle Gaboury (gaboury@cheo.on.ca)
Colline Blanchard (blanchard_c@cheo.on.ca)
David Moher (dmoher@uottawa.ca)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To: BMC Pediatrics Editorial Board

Ottawa, March 16th, 2006

RE: revision of our manuscript  How effective is Amethocaine 4% gel, before a peripherally inserted central catheter, in reducing procedural pain in infants: a randomized double-blind placebo controlled trial [ISRCTN75884221]

We would like to once again thank the reviewers for their constructive comments and suggestions. All comments have been addressed. Find below a point-by-point description of the revisions made or answers to reviewers’ questions. A revised manuscript has been submitted.

**Minor essential revisions:**

1. Please add information about safety parameters and physiologic parameters.

   Relevant safety data and physiologic parameters have been added in Tables 4 and 5.

2. Pg 17, 2nd paragraph: why called bias rather than random error?

   The reviewer’s point was well taken and the concept of bias was removed from the text. The last paragraph on page 17 has been amended to reflect this.

3. Pg 18, last line: how do you balance out by randomization inactivity of drug-inactive placebo?

   Again, the reviewer is right. Inactive drug can only impact one arm of the study. This may have had an impact on results, although we did not witness changes in the consistency of the medication during the trial. The last sentence on page 18 was removed.

4. Pg 21 –reference opioids for PICC- include recent article in JAMA Feb 15 2006.
The reference was added.

5. Figure 2: use generic drug name.

This was changed.