Author’s response to reviews

Title: Low birthweight and preterm birth in young people with special educational needs: a magnetic resonance imaging analysis

Authors:

Michael D Spencer (m.d.spencer@ed.ac.uk)
T William J Moorhead (bill.moorhead@ed.ac.uk)
Rod J Gibson (rod.gibson@ed.ac.uk)
Andrew M Mcintosh (andrew.mcintosh@ed.ac.uk)
Jess E Sussmann (jess.sussmann@ed.ac.uk)
David G C Owens (david.owens@ed.ac.uk)
Stephen M Lawrie (s.lawrie@ed.ac.uk)
Eve C Johnstone (e.johnstone@ed.ac.uk)

Version: 3  Date: 31 December 2007

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Phillips,

Thank you for your email of 20 December 2007, and for the comments of referee #2.

I feel that the most appropriate response to these comments is for me to leave the manuscript unaltered from its revised version, and to provide you and the referee with a response to the specific comments made.

Response to comments of referee #2:

We thank the reviewer for his further comments on the manuscript.

The reviewer asks whether the multiple comparisons testing method employed was a familywise error correction or a false discovery rate method. It is our understanding that, whilst these two methods may be available as add-ons for SPM99 (but not part of the standard package), and whilst both are available within SPM2 (as part of its standard package), the standard SPM99 package employs Gaussian random fields theory for multiple comparisons correction.

Within our analysis, we employed the standard approach within SPM99, which is the use of Gaussian random fields theory. This is not the same as either familywise error or false discovery rate methods.

For this reason, our view is that the clearest and most correct explanation is the text that we have already inserted into the manuscript in response to the original set of comments by the reviewer, i.e.:

¿Voxelwise correction for multiple comparisons was performed using Gaussian random fields theory within SPM99 (Ashburner & Friston, 2000)¿.
I hope this explanation will be satisfactory to yourself and the reviewer.

Yours sincerely

Dr Michael D Spencer