Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of birth defects in an Arctic Russian setting from 1973 to 2011: a register-based study

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Dr Valanzasca,

We thank you again for your interest in our paper and your comments and suggestions. According to your request dated 13.12.2014, we hereby submit a revised version of the manuscript, which is now entitled: “Prevalence of birth defects in an Arctic Russian setting from 1973 to 2011: a register-based study” (Journal ref # 2762073541294114). We hope you will find this revised manuscript acceptable for publication in the Journal. Our response to comments is outlined below, and all changes made in the manuscript are made identifiable by using tool “track changes”.

Comment: In Russia fewer BD require mandatory registration? It is not clear.
Yes, there are 22 forms of BD, which are obligatory for reporting in RF. We have changed sentence and added some information at lines 68-70,88.

Comment: I would delete “qualitative” and leave the sentence “a comparison of our…” It adds some confusion to the sentence. What do you mean by “qualitatively”? Prevalence it’s a quantitative measure

We use word “qualitatively” to indicate that no statistical comparisons were made, but we have decided to remove word “qualitatively” from the text.

Comment: This statement “Furthermore, the prevalence of defects compatible with living has increased because most of them can be easily visualized by US-screening and can thus be surgically corrected” is beyond the results of your study. Please support such statement with some references.

In accordance with your suggestion, we have modified the sentence and added reference

We have also changes subheadings title from “Study limitations” to “Study strengthens and limitations”

Sincerely,
Vitaly A. Postoev