Author's response to reviews

Title: Severe bronchopulmonary dysplasia improved by noninvasive positive pressure ventilation: a case report

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Prof. Kidd,

Mann C, Baer W: Severe bronchopulmonary dysplasia improved by noninvasive positive pressure ventilation: a case report

Please find attached our revision of this case report.

We have made the following amendments:

In response to Dr Montalto

1. Surfactant dose: added

2. Exact time when child was weaned off noninvasive positive pressure ventilation (NIPPV) and sent home: added

3. Details on ventilator-associated pneumonia and bacterial airway colonisation: added.

4. Duration of dexamethasone treatment: specified (2 days before extubation (which was followed by a reduced dose for 3 days after extubation))

5. Discussion: rewritten with arguments for NIPPV explicated (rapid improvement getting the child out of a serious condition, patient safety, reference to literature) and argument for importance of case report as precursor of larger studies given

6. Description of pre-intervention chest X ray findings: added. However, we took no X rays on discontinuing NIPPV because they were not needed in the
subsequent management (nor had we yet decided to write up the case). Hence we cannot compare pre vs post-NIPPV X rays.

In response to Dr Soler

1. Description of the child’s condition pre- and post NIPPV: completed (pre NIPPV: respiratory parameters, chest X-ray, echocardiogram, and clinical observation; post-NIPPV: see under Follow-up). We think a parental QoL questionnaire would have been inappropriate for describing clinical status pre and post therapy as the child had not been at home before NIPPV. The mother would have been unable to compare everyday life with the child pre and post NIPPV therapy.

2. Child’s neurodevelopment: added.

3. Follow-up: added till age 22 months. The boy’s current age is 23 months. Lung function testing will be possible later on in our institution.

With best regards

Christian Mann