Author’s response to reviews

Title: Repeat prenatal corticosteroid prior to preterm birth: a systematic review and individual participant data meta-analysis for the PRECISE study group (prenatal repeat corticosteroid international IPD study group: assessing the effects using the best level of evidence) - study protocol

Authors:

Caroline A Crowther (caroline.crowther@adelaide.edu.au)
Fariba Aghajafari (fariba.aghajafari@ucalgary.ca)
Lisa M Askie (lisa.askie@ctc.usyd.edu.au)
Elizabeth V Asztalos (Elizabeth.Asztalos@sunnybrook.ca)
Peter Brocklehurst (Peter.Brocklehurst@npeu.ox.ac.uk)
Tanya K Bubner (tanya.bubner@adelaide.edu.au)
Lex W Doyle (lwd@unimelb.edu.au)
Sourabh Dutta (sourabhdutta@yahoo.co.in)
Thomas J Garite (Thomas_Garite@pediatrics.com)
Debra A Guinn (daguinn@comcast.net)
Mikko Hallman (Mikko.Hallman@oulu.fi)
Mary E Hannah (maryhannah@cogeco.ca)
Pollyanna Hardy (pollyanna.hardy@npeu.ox.ac.uk)
Kimberly Maurel (Kimberly.Maurel@pediatrics.com)
Premasish Mazumder (premasish1@yahoo.com)
Cindy McEvoy (mcevoyc@ohsu.edu)
Philippa F Middleton (philippa.middleton@adelaide.edu.au)
Kellie E Murphy (kellie.murphy@utoronto.ca)
Outi M Peltoniemi (Outi.Peltoniemi@ppshp.fi)
Dawn Peters (petersd@ohsu.edu)
Lisa Sullivan (lsull@bu.edu)
Elizabeth A Thom (e_thom@bsc.gwu.edu)
Merryn Voysey (merryn.voysey@ctc.usyd.edu.au)
Ronald J Wapner (rw2191@mail.cumc.columbia.edu)
Lisa Yelland (lisa.yelland@adelaide.edu.au)
Sasha Zhang (sasha.zhang@adelaide.edu.au)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editor,

Re: Repeat prenatal corticosteroid prior to preterm birth: a systematic review and individual participant data meta-analysis for the PRECISE Study Group (Prenatal REpeat Corticosteroid International IPD Study Group: assessing the effects using the best level of Evidence)

Thank you for your email outlining formatting changes to be made to our manuscript before publication. We have revised the manuscript in response to your suggestions and addressed their individual points in detail below.

We look forward to the publication of our manuscript in BMC Systematic Reviews

Wish best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Professor CarolineCrowther

MAJOR REVISIONS

1) Title: please ensure that the title is identical in the manuscript and the submission system. Please use sentence case in the title, both in the manuscript file and the submission system. Capitalise only the first word and proper nouns, and do not include full stops/periods.

The titles have now been updated to reflect capitalisation of only the first word and proper nouns. However, if possible we would like the title to reflect properly the meaning of the acronym PRECISE. This means that certain words in the title are capitalised and underlined (see below). If underlining and capitalisation together or capitalisation alone are not possible, please use the formatting we have presented in the article that conforms to your journal standards (ie only first words and proper nouns capitalised).
“Repeat prenatal corticosteroid prior to preterm birth: a systematic review and individual participant data meta-analysis for the PRECISE study group (Prenatal REpeat Corticosteroid International IPD Study group: assessing the effects using the best level of Evidence) – study protocol”

2) Author list: the list of authors in the manuscript should be written exactly as they are in the submission system, both in style and order. The preferred style is “First name Initial Last name” (e.g. Joe F Bloggs).

The author names are now written in the preferred style both in the manuscript and the submission system.

3) 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 groups' contribution as a whole can be given in the authors contributions section.

The members of the PRECISE Study Group wish to be named individually, therefore we have removed “for the PRECISE Study Group” from within the byline. The individually named (authors) group members are still listed within the acknowledgements section along with additional information regarding their particular roles.

The group name has therefore now been removed from the submission system and from the manuscript.

4) Affiliations: Each affiliation should be written in full, in the following format: Department, Institute, (Street), City, (Postal code), Country. This may mean repeating institutional addresses if the authors are from different departments within an institution.

The author affiliations have been reviewed and updated as necessary.

5) References: please provide a functioning link to the website cited in reference 33.

The website link as listed (http://www.controlled-trials.com/ISRCTN46614711) seems to function adequately. Therefore we have made no changes to it.

6) Typography: Please take this opportunity to check your manuscript for any typographical errors and to make any final corrections or revisions. This is the final proofing stage for your manuscript, and you will not be able to make any changes after acceptance.

We have taken this opportunity to check our manuscript and agree that it is ready for final acceptance. Thank you.