Author’s response to reviews

Title: Nitrous oxide occupational exposure in conscious sedation procedures in pediatric dental ambulatories: a pilot retrospective observational study in an Italian pediatric hospital

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

as requested, we made major revisions to our article “Nitrous oxide occupational exposure in conscious sedation procedures in pediatric dental ambulatories”.

The revisions, reported here below, regard:

Technical comments

• A list of abbreviations has been inserted
• Declarations heading has been added
Reviewer 1

- integrations to the Summary, Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion
- clarification of the study design, indicating dates of study, number of clinics evaluated and statistical analysis of the data
- collection of new data, control of data and corrections of mistakes in describing the dental procedures, that are always the same (conservative care and dental extractions), definition of the selection criteria for dental clinics and personnel involved in analyzing, type of sample taking place (dental ambulatory), handling protocol of urine samples
- clarification of the measurements in all study participants (see Methods section and tab.3 of the article)
- insertion in the Discussion of a comparative analysis of other studies showing environmental concentrations of nitrous oxide in other medical and dental procedures
- integrations to the references

Reviewer 2

- revision and integration of the tables with a clearer description of measurement in all participants in urine sample
- inserting of a clearer description of the subjects in the study in the Method section
- the mask described in the Method section isn’t the "double mask" reported in the reference nr.10
- definition of the subjects enrolled in the study (dentist, dental assistant and patients). For each session one dentist and one dentist assistant were included
- collection of new data on patient (gender and age). The patients were 47
- presentation of data are in mean and not in average
- SD (Standard Deviation) was wrongly written DS
- insertion in the Discussion of the difference in the measuring method from other previous studies
- change of reference n. 8 in the Discussion
- as regards our conclusions, the authors would recommend both:
a) the important role and use of nitrous oxide in a general dental clinic, and,

b) the good performance of the exhaust system used in the study.

A bibliography revision has been made following the list of not checked and not validated references reported in the table on the Journal website.

The authors submit a change of authorship request form to modify the order of the authors and add a new author.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I thank you for your kind attention and send you my best regards.

Head of Occupational Health

Dr. Salvatore ZAFFINA