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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Dear Editor,

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

The revisions, reported here below, regard:

Technical comments

As for the Ethical Committee, the authors notified the study and the following sentence has been included in the article: ”In accordance with the guidelines for the classification and conduct of observational retrospective studies in Italy, it is not necessary to obtain the opinion of the Ethical
Committee (EC), but it is sufficient to notify the study to it. The EC has taken note of it and no impediments to the publication were found. HCWs’ confidentiality was protected”.

Hiroshi Hanamoto (Reviewer 3): Thank you for suggestions.

Method

Primary and secondary outcome measurements were clarified in the Method section.

Results

1. The explanation of many literatures has been moved from the Results to the Introduction.

2. The missing data in Table 3 were excluded from the analysis: they have been specified under the Method section.

3. The correlation between urinary nitrous oxide concentration of dental assistant and environmental concentration of nitrous oxide was confirmed in the Pearson’s correlation of 0.918 using SPSS.

4. The date order in Tables 2 and 3 has been corrected.

5. The authors included in the manuscript the statistical data about the correlations between the patients’ age and gender and the environmental nitrous oxide concentrations

Discussion

1. Statistical data were analyzed and discussed