Author’s response to reviews

Title: Circumcision in hemophilia using low quantity of Factor Concentrates: Experience from Dakar, Senegal

Authors:
Moussa Seck (seck_moussa@yahoo.fr)
Aloise Sagna (alosagna@hotmail.com)
Mame Sokhna Guéye (sokho1209@yahoo.fr)
Blaise Felix Faye (blaisefelixfaye@yahoo.fr)
Diariétou Sy (diary-sy@hotmail.com)
Sokhna Aissatou Touré (touresonia90@yahoo.fr)
Abibatou Sall (bibasall@yahoo.fr)
Awa Oumar Touré (awaoumar2000@yahoo.fr)
Saliou Diop (saliou.diop@ucad.edu.sn)

Version: 2 Date: 30 Jan 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Answers letter

Dear Editorial board

Thank you for all your comments to improve the paper. Please receive below the corrections/comments following remarks from the reviewers. I also put all the edited sections in red in the manuscript.

Best regards

Reviewer 1: The manuscript has improved after revision. I have some remaining concerns. The authors did not quote the comments from the reviewers. It is difficult to track.
Background

Page 3 line 54. Please remove "like ours" Answer: "Like ours" is deleted

Page 3, line 60-61. Please consider remove this paragraph since factor replacement therapy is the standard treatment for patients with hemophilia who undergo invasive procedures or surgeries. Answers: line 60-61 are removed

Methods

Page 4 line 3. Were all of 26 haemophiliacs underwent circumcision? If yes, please state that you include patients with hemophilia A with or without inhibitor and who underwent circumcision from 20xx to 20xx. Answers: The correction is made to line 76-77

Page 4 line 84. I would suggest "none of haemophiliacs had prophylactic treatment" Answers: Correction is made in line 83

Page 4 line 86-87. Please clarify this sentence "there was any other criteria related to age, severity of hemophilia or presence of anti FVIII inhibitor" Answers: The sentence has been reworded line 85-86

Page 5 line 103. Please provide full name of FEIBA and rFVIIa. All of hemophilia patients with inhibitor received FEIBA for the first consecutive three doses. After that, only patients who had post surgical bleeding got rescue therapy with rFVIIa. Is that correct? Please clarify.

Answers: Yes (because the stock of FEIBA was finished)

Answers: Full name of FEIBA and rFVIIa is provided to line 102-103

Did you measure factor VIII clotting activity following factor infusion? Answers : No (Efficacy was assessed on the clinic by the absence of bleeding)

Do you have a specific management for patients who had breakthrough bleeding after the surgery or the treatment was depended on treating physicians? Please clarify. Answers: The surgeon underwent a revision at the operating room, restoring other sutures after administration of anti-hemophilic factor concentrates

Page 6: What does externally mean? After patients were discharged from hospital? Answers: Yes

Results
Page 7. Please state number of participants and diagnosis. (e.g. there were 26 patients with hemophilia A who underwent circumcision included in this study). Answers: Correction is made to line 149-150

Please report "mean with standard deviation" or "median with range". I assumed that the distribution of the data was not normal. I would suggest using median with range or interquartile range instead of mean. For reporting, please state what is in the bracket, e.g. median age was X.X years (range 1-30 years). Answers: Correction is made to line 151

Clinical evaluation

The authors stated that "Mean number of days of FVIII concentrates treatment was 6.9 days (5 - 12 days) in children 158 and 10.75 days (7 - 16 days) in adults (p = 0.0049)" However, when I looked at Table 4, most of the patients received only 3-5 doses of factor (approximately 1-2 treatment days). How could the number of treatment days were so high on page 7. Could you provide number of treatment days in Table 4. Answers: The number of doses presented in Table 4 corresponds to the anti-hemophilic treatment administered only during hospitalization. However, the total quantity of factor concentrates presented in the same table corresponds to the doses administered during hospitalization and out of the hospital during dressings or in case of bleeding complications. To avoid overloading the table, we did not want to put a column for the number of days of treatments for each patient. Our research team found it necessary to give the average number of days of treatment with ranges in adults and children.

P=0.0000 can be written as P<0.001. Answers: Correction is made to line 161

Table 3. Please add the columns regarding

1. post surgical day that bleeding happened
2. rescue treatments.

Answers:

1- We did not find it necessary to study the exact days when the bleeding occurred. What we have studied is the number of days of exposure to treatment. Apart from the first 2 days of systematic treatment, all other days of treatment were on days when patients had bleeding. The number of days of exposure to antihemophilic treatments is presented in Table 3

2- Rescue treatments is added at table 3
Page 8. - "Characteristics of hemophiliacs according to the type of factors concentrate, number of dose and total quantity of factor administered" should be changed to "number of doses and total quantity of factor concentrates administered". Answers: Correction is made to line 177 and to title of table 4.

Could you provide the utilization of factor concentrates using unit per kg. Answers: to line 178-179.

Any differences in terms of quantity of factor concentrates and clinical outcomes between severe and non-severe patients? Answers: It has not been studied but it is clear that severe hemophiliacs received more quantity of factor concentrates than the others because they had more bleeding complications (4/5 patients with bleeding complications).

Discussion

Page 9, last paragraph. I would suggest to remove the last paragraph since you did not state in a priori for this comparison. However, it is reasonable to discuss the outcomes from patients without hemophilia in the discussion part. Answers: The last paragraph in page 9 is removed.

Conclusion

Page 11, Please remove "Circumcision is a surgical procedure that should be performed by an experienced surgeon to prevent complications." None of knowledge from this study supported this statement. Answers: The sentence have been removed (page 11).

Table 2: please provide percent (%) for each number. Answers: Percent were given in Table 2.

Table 4 please change from "minor" to "mild". Answers: Minor is replaced by mild.

Abstract

Page 2 line 30. "This prospective study included........... " please add, who underwent circumcision between 2xxxx-2xxxx at ...Answers: Correction has been reported to line 30-31.

Please revise statistical reports as suggested. Answers: Statistical corrections were made.
Conclusion: I would suggest, instead of it is possible to perform, you may conclude that the study shows treatment protocol using low quantity of factor concentrates is efficient in hemophilia patients who underwent circumcision. Answers: Correction is made at the conclusion (line 43-44)