Author’s response to reviews

Title: Burden and Risk Factors of Invasive Group B Streptococcus Disease among Neonates in a Chinese Maternity Hospital

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Cassady-Cain:

On behalf of my co-authors, we thank you very much for giving us an opportunity to revise our manuscript, we appreciate editors and reviewers very much for your positive and constructive comments and suggestions on our manuscript entitled "Burden and Risk Factors of Invasive Group B Streptococcus Disease among Neonates in a Chinese Maternity Hospital" (INFD-D-17-01173R3). We have studied reviewer’s comments carefully and have made revision which marked in red in the paper. We have tried our best to revise our manuscript according to the comments. Attached please find the revised version, which we would like to submit for your kind consideration.

We would like to express our great appreciation to you and reviewers for comments on our paper. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and best regards

yours sincerely

Qunhua Ying

E-mail: ssbx1972@163.com
Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Burden and Risk Factors of Invasive Group B Streptococcus Disease among Neonates in a Chinese Maternity Hospital" (INFD-D-17-01173R3). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made some changes which we hope meet with approval. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper. Revised portion are marked in red in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the response to the reviewer’s comments are as flowing:

Editor Comments:

Please have your manuscript copy-edited by a native English-speaking colleague. If this is not possible, please consider using a professional service.

Response: We are very sorry for our poor English and thank you very much for your good comments. Considering the Editor’s comment, we have had our manuscript copy-edited.

Reviewer #1:

Special thanks to Dear Dr. Gassiep for your good comments and suggestion. You are so nice. We appreciate for your issues and warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

Line 142: the first use of the term "non-resident", please clarify this. Non-resident of china? Non-resident of the province? Non-resident of the city?

Response: We have made correction according to the Reviewer’s comments.

Line 186 - 190: "To prevent intrauterine infection regular dosing regimen of penicillin G is 3 million units intravenously every 8 hours whenever necessary. After rupture of membranes for 12 hours, oral erythromycin enteric capsules were administered to most patients. Combined use of antibiotics can also be seen."
The first sentence in this paragraph is a statement, and does not indicate that the patients in this study actually received this therapy. This is the results section of the manuscript. Is this statement directly related to a specific number of patients in the study? Either remove or add specific data.

The second sentence remains unclear. Did "most" patients only receive oral erythromycin for 12 hours, or do the authors mean that erythromycin was commenced 12 hours after rupture of membranes? Or do they mean that erythromycin was only commenced if the rupture of membranes was present for 12 hours prior to delivery?

Response: We have re-written this part according to the Reviewer’s suggestion.

Line 201 - 203: "Considering the poor outcomes, treatment was discontinued due to meningitis, intracranial haemorrhage, colloidion baby, and prematurity with respiratory failure."

Suggest removing "due to", as this implies that the authors would never treat a patient with meningitis. Consider "treatment was discontinued in cases where the outcome was considered to be poor, which included a child with severe meningitis, intracranial haemorrhage…” or any sentence structure that better relays the authors intended point.

Response: It is really true as Reviewer suggested that we have re-written this part.

Line 219 - 222: "Since 2001, several studies have reported invasive neonatal GBS disease in China(9-12), but there is a lack of systematic research (9-12). 118 infants with invasive GBS infection were found over a 4-year period from 7 hospitals (2011-2015) (12)."

Consider rephrasing as the sentences are disjointed.

Suggestion: Since 2001, several studies have reported invasive neonatal GBS disease in China, with one paper reporting 118 infant cases across 7 hospitals between 2011 to 2015 (9-12). However, there is a lack of systematic research (9-12).

Response: We have re-written this part according to the Reviewer’s suggestion.

Line 220: Reference in middle of sentence was deleted.

Line 260: Reference was added.

Line 279: "GBS screened positive was not detected." This sentence does not make sense. Please rephrase.
Response: It is really true as Reviewer suggested that we have rephrased the sentence.

Line 279 - 285: please make it clear at the beginning of this paragraph that these are the limitations of the study. Will make it easier to read and understand.

Response: We have made correction according to the Reviewer’s comments.

Line 275 - 277: "The prompt diagnostic evaluation leads to a lower fatality rate of EOD cases, and higher mortality of LOD cases may be due to delayed medical treatment."

While I agree that the first part of the sentence is true, if the authors have no reference for the statement then they need to rephrase, "prompt diagnostic evaluation will likely contribute to a lower…"

Response: We have made correction according to the Reviewer’s comments.

Once again, thanks very much for your kind work and constructive comments.

Thank you and best regards

yours sincerely
Qunhua Ying

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