Author’s response to reviews

Title: Establishment and utility assessment of the Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome early warning score (PEWS) scale

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor::

Thank you for concerning our manuscript entitled “Establishment and utility assessment of the Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome early warning score (PEWS) scale” (manuscript number: NURL-D-18-00117R5). Thank you for your helpful advice. Below are our responses to the six comments.

1. Ethics Approval:

In the Declarations, we note that you have stated that Chinese PLA general hospital ethics committee granted you permission to access the patient data for the study. However, we note that
the data collected for Part 1 of your study was collected from a number of different hospitals. Please can you clarify who gave approval to access the patient records for those hospitals?

Furthermore did the approval from the Chinese PLA general hospital ethics committee cover the collection of data from these hospitals?

Response:

Thank you.

Chinese PLA general hospital is the leading hospital of this program. All the other cooperating hospitals will recognize the consent and we will then be authorized to use the data from their hospitals. The approval from the Chinese PLA general hospital ethics committee can cover the collection of data from other four hospitals. Those hospitals only need to put it on record without the need to apply for another approval from their hospitals.

We revised “Ethics approval and consent to participate” of the article as follows: “The research has approved by Chinese PLA General Hospital ethics committee, who permitted us to access patient’s data in all the cooperating hospitals. Informed written consent was obtained from patients' parents, who gave their consent for their children's information to be published in this manuscript”.

2. Consent to Participate:

a. Please can you ensure that your consent statement in the 'Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate' section clearly indicates that the consent given was to participate in the study?

b. Please confirm in the 'Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate' section whether consent was given in written or verbal form.

c. Please can you clarify the minimum age to be able to give informed consent to participate in medical research in China?

Response:

a. We can ensure that the consent is about the patient's participation in this study.

b. The consent was given in written form.
c. For patients less than 18 years old, the consent was given by their parents. All the patients in our study were less than 18 years old, so the consent was from their parents.

3. Consent for Publication:

We note that your consent statement indicates that consent was obtained from 'the patient'. We note that this conflicts with the previous statement that the patient's parents gave their consent for their children’s information to be published in this manuscript. Please could you clarify which is correct and amend accordingly?

Response:

Thank you for your suggestion. We have corrected the expression to “Written informed consent was obtained from the patient’s parents for publication of this article and any accompanying Tables and Figures”.

4. Authors' Contributions:

a. The individual contributions of ALL authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section - we note that the contributions of a number of authors are currently missing. Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found here:

http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship

b. If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors.

Response:

Thank you for your advice. According to the guidance for authorship, we have corrected our expression as follow: “LP contributed to the study concept and design. HL, LY Liu, YY, LY Hu, MJ, MN, QL and SF are all responsible for data acquisition and manuscript drafting. LP, LY Liu, and HL performed the statistical analyses and provided statistical advice. YL and JC assisted with the conception of the study. LY Liu and YY critically revised the intellectual content. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript”.
5. File Inventory:
Please remove the invoice from the File Inventory.

Response:
Thank you for the notification. We have removed the invoice.

6. Clean Manuscript:
At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response:
Thank you for your information. We have cleared out all the tracked changes, comments, highlights.