Author's response to reviews

Title: Myometrial contractility influences oxytocin receptor (OXTR) expression in term trophoblast cells obtained from the maternal surface of the human placenta

Authors:

Dariusz Szukiewicz (Dszukiewicz@hotmail.com)
Anna Bilska (pathophysiology@wum.edu.pl)
Tarun K Mittal (ginekolog@wp.pl)
Aleksandra Stangret (a.stangret@op.pl)
Jaroslaw Wejman (jarwej@poczta.fm)
Grzegorz Szewczyk (gszew@mp.pl)
Michal Pyzlk (bregg@poczta.onet.pl)
Jacek Zamlynski (zamlynski@o2.pl)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Board members,

Please find enclosed below the next step of our paper improvements according to the the reviewers comments/suggestions pertaining to the manuscript MS: 1865187353169111: “Myometrial contractility influences oxytocin receptor (OXTR) expression in term trophoblast cells obtained from the maternal surface of the human placenta”.

Yours sincerely,

Dariusz Szukiewicz

Our replies to the reviewers’ comments/questions:

Reviewer: Christian W. Gruber

- Correctness of the language was carefully checked by native English speaker scientist.

Reviewer: Frauke von Versen-Höynck

The introduction is still too long and can be shortened and focused.

- The introduction has been shortened again.
**Methods:**

Please add the info about inter- and intra-assay variations of the assay to the methods section.

- These informations about inter- and intra-assay variations of the assay have been added to the methods section:

  “The intra-assay precision (%CV) amounted to 11.4 and the inter-assay variance (%CV) was 16.1.”

Please add one sentence about the test for cytotrophoblast purity to the method section.

- The respective sentence about testing for cytotrophoblast purity has been added:

  “The purity of the cytotrophoblast culture developed from each placenta was evaluated by immunoperoxidase staining with antibodies against vimentin.”

Although the authors stated, that median was used now due to the non-normally distribution of data, the figure legend says mean.

- The data for OXT concentration are not normally distributed. In the corrected version of Figure 3, both figure and the legend present “median”.

- The legend for Figure 4. is correct. “The data are expressed as mean ± SEM”. The data for OXTR expression were normally distributed.

**Results:**

Please add the information about what type of data (median and ranges) is shown to the table legend.

- The information was added in the corrected legend of the table:

  “Table 1. Clinical characteristics of the two groups studied (median and range). The groups may be treated as homogenous, except for the mode of delivery.”

6. I appreciate that the data of figure 3 are shown as scatter plot now. Are the data normally distributed? The figures gives a mean but the legend says median. This is confusing.

- The data for OXT concentration are not normally distributed. In the corrected version of Figure 3, both figure and the legend present “median”.

- The legend for Figure 4. is correct. “The data are expressed as mean ± SEM”. The data for OXTR expression were normally distributed.