Author’s response to reviews

Title: Emotional and cognitive experiences during the time of diagnosis and decision-making following a prenatal diagnosis: A qualitative study of males presented with congenital heart defect in the fetus carried by their pregnant partner

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Author’s response to reviews:
Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise the manuscript entitled “Emotional and cognitive experiences during the time of diagnosis and decision-making following a prenatal diagnosis: A qualitative study of males presented with congenital heart defect in the fetus carried by their pregnant partner”, submitted to BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth. We found the comments very valuable in helping us to improve the manuscript. Please find our responses to these comments below.

Editor
Comment #1
Please include the email of both authors on the title page.

Response
Revised.

Comment #2
Please include the following sentence under Authors contributions: "Both authors have read and approved the final version of this manuscript".
Reviewer 1
Comment #1
In the results section, I would like the authors to consider the reorganization of the main themes that emerged, that is, changing the order of themes 4) and 5) - following a temporal criteria, in which "worries of recurrence in future pregnancies" should be the last topic.

Response
Revised.

Comment #2
In the Discussion Section, I would suggest that the authors elaborate a little bit further about the similarities of emotional reactions in both genders (and on the importance of distinguishing between emotions and behavioral/emotional manifestations of these emotions).

Response
We have added text concerning this topic, please see row 345-360.

Comment #3
Although I understand that the authors may not want to quantify the different themes (its frequency), we have a single theme for each kind of decision (terminating; continuing) - does that mean that the pattern of reactions is similar for all fathers with the same decision? Please elaborate a little bit more on that.

Response
The themes are defined as overarching threads in the data that represent the underlying interpreted meaning. All respondents with terminated pregnancy described the situation as painful and emotionally stressful, involving complex ethical and existential issues. We have now clarified this in the results. The theme for those with continued pregnancy involves different
aspects related to feelings about the coming birth. The theme encompasses all aspects related to feelings about the birth, brought up during the interviews.