Author’s response to reviews

Title: Birth ball for pregnant women in labour research protocol: a multi-centre randomised controlled trial

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Dear Editor

Thank you for your additional comments.

1. I have uploaded the English language versions of all questionnaires developed specifically for use in this study as supplementary files. Four questionnaires are uploaded as “additional files” as “supplementary material” in the system. Two questionnaires for research staff are in English, and two questionnaires (consent and questions) for research subjects are in Chinese. The questionnaires are for
editor’s reference and will not be published or read by readers.

All additional files are correlated in the main text:

- Staff record of patient demographic data and birth record, refer to the section “Methods > Demography and obstetrics data”
- Staff record of pain severity (VAS) of participant, refer to the section “Methods > Primary outcomes”
- Participant consent form, refer to the section “Methods > Inclusion & exclusion criteria”
- Participant questionnaire prior discharge from hospital, refer to the section “Methods > Primary outcomes”

2. A single, final, clean version of the manuscript is uploaded. Tables and figures are also uploaded. All figures and tables are cited within the text. The questionnaires are not to be published and readers can request them when they write to corresponding author.

3. The format of the reference list is revised because there were some entries the IT system of the BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth cannot recognize the references.

Thank you.

Best regards,

May Yeung