Author’s response to reviews

Title: High risk pregnancy associated perinatal morbidity and mortality: A second birth population-based survey in Huai’an in 2015

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Version: 5 Date: 01 Feb 2019

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2019-01-31
Dear Janelle Coore,

Thank you again for your further queries regarding ethics approval and authors’ background issues. My responses are listed below:

Your query:

1. Thank you for including the full list of tertiary hospitals and for including the following statement:

   approval was adopted and approved by all the participating centers in Huai’an through respective scientific committee or hospital administrative authority equivalent to institutional review board in accordance with the Chinese regulations for clinical investigation"

   We request that you please include the full name of the scientific committees that "adopted and approved" your study. Alternatively, if individual ethics approval was not obtained from each hospital, please clarify whether permission was obtained from each hospital.

   Response: Based on your proposal, in the further revised manuscript, Methods on page 6, third para, we have rephrased the sentences to meet your requirement. To be consistent, this is also made at section of Declaration, Ethics on page 16, in R5.

2. Please remove the ethics approval document from the file inventory.

   Response: The ethics approval is removed.

3. Please remove "Huai’an Perinatal-Neonatal Study Group" from the authors list on the title page, and include this information in the Authors Information section of the declarations.

   Response: This phrase is removed from the title page, and listed in the authors’ contribution in Declaration, and in the list of hospital names in supplementary materials.

   Please note that you may also choose to use this section to include any relevant information about the author(s) that may aid the reader's interpretation of the article, and understand the standpoint of the author(s). This may include details about the authors’ qualifications, current
positions they hold at institutions or societies, or any other relevant background information. Please refer to authors using their initials. Note this section should not be used to describe any competing interests.

Response: A list of authors’ professional appointments and academic commitments is attached in the supplementary materials. This information is provided to you for your assessment. I personally do not feel this information would add to comprehension of the article very much. I leave it at your discretion whether it be incorporated with the authors’ contribution or not, in the declaration section or as supplementary file, or not to use. Should it be done as proposed, I will work on it again very soon.

4. Please ensure that when you upload your revised submission that it is in the final form for publication. Please remove any tracked changes, colored text, or highlighting and include only a single clean copy of the manuscript. Should you wish to respond to these revision requests, please include the information in the designated input box only.

Response: I have followed these notices when uploading the new files as R5.

All above changes were made and agreed by all co-authors to submit as R5. Should there be any further change required please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Bo Sun, MD, PhD