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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Author’s response to reviews:

Re: PRCH-D-2018-01086-R7
To: Janelle Coore  
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth  
Apr. 9, 2019

Dear Editor,

Thank you again for your query of PRCH-D-2018-01086-R6, dated April 4, 2019, regarding clarification of the ethics committee’s name, and confirmation statement of all participating institutes to have complied by the study protocol and ethics approval.

The changes are made as follows:

Your queries: Thank you for your revisions and for including the full list of institutions, however, we would like to request that you please clarify whether permission or approval was obtained for institutions 2-9 listed in the Ethics approval and consent to participate section. Please note that if ethics approval was obtained we request the full name of the Ethics Committee. If permission was obtained please be sure to clearly indicate which institutions granted permission.

Response: The Ethics Committee of Huai’an Women and Children’s Hospital was the sole institutional review board which granted the permission to all the participating centers in the patient data collection, analysis and reporting.

In the Methods, page 5, we have changed the subtitle of the section as “Study design, protocol and ethical approval” to emphasize this issue.

On page 6, the texts of third paragraph are marked up with yellow background (can readily be removed on Word file) to indicate the whole name of ethics committee as “the Ethics Committee of Huai’an Women and Children’s Hospital”. All the 22 level II and III hospitals participated and committed to the study protocol after further approval by each institute’s administrative body and respective clinical departments.

On page 16, this list includes 10 centers as co-authors’ institutes and, the centers 1-9 represent the 6 level III and 16 level II hospitals (Table 1 and supplemental materials Table S1 of R7) and, a sentence “…and those of the rest level II and III hospitals in Huaian, Jiangsu” is added following the 9th institute, to denote this fact. For the institute 10, we have deleted “the ethics committee”, and changed it as “The Director’s Office of Scientific Research, Children’s Hospital of Fudan University, Shanghai, China”, to be consistent with the above context.
All the co-authors agreed to these changes and approved the re-submission as R7. Should such changes need further amendment or rephrasing please advise.

On this submission, I have changed the category of the article type to Trends in Pregnancy and Childbirth, to better match the contents to the Journal, or at your discretion.

I hope these changes may satisfy the requirement, and am looking forward to your decision.

Sincerely yours,

Bo Sun, MD, PhD
On behalf of the co-authors