Author’s response to reviews

Title: Growth of extremely low birth weight infants at a tertiary hospital in a middle-income country.

Authors:

Tendai Mabhandi (tenbha@gmail.com;tendai.mabhandi@students.wits.ac.za)

Tanusha Ramdin (tanusharamdin@yahoo.com)

Daynia Ballot (Daynia.ballot@wits.ac.za)

Version: 2 Date: 25 May 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear reviewers

Thank you for your input into the article. Below are the responses to the latest comments;

1) Section 2.6. Skewed variables should be described using the median, not the mean.

The statement in section 2.6 line 4 has been corrected.

2) Section 3.3. Please specify the type of correlation coefficient estimated (Pearson, Spearman).

Pearson correction was used. This is now specified in section 3.3 line 15.

3) Section 3.4. Remove the text "An independent samples t-test…” as the section refers to all comparisons, including those for which other statistical tests were used.

The text has been removed from section 3.4.

4) Section 5. Add the number of infants discharged <36 weeks to the sentence describing their age at discharge.

This information has been added in section 5 line 5.
5) Section 6 & abstract. What do the authors mean when they say "... may provide better association"? Is the INTERGROWTH chart a more robust tool? The sentence can be improved.

This statement has been clarified in the abstract results, conclusion and section 6 line 14

6) Table 2 needs a footnote explaining all acronyms used in the table.

Acronyms in table 2 have been expanded

7) New Table 4. Please remove the column presenting odds ratios. This table should be presented in a standard manner, with column -not row- percentages (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5101968/).

The table has been modified (now table 6) to meet the standard described for presenting Chi-squared rest in the article above. The column representing odds ratio has been removed.

8) Figures 1 and 2 need clear legends identifying the values being plotted (what centile from which chart).

Legends in Figure 1 and 2 clarified

Thank you

Regards

Tendai Mabhandi