Author’s response to reviews

Title: Successful conservative treatment of intestinal perforation in VLBW and ELBW neonates: a single centre case series and review of the literature

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor and your reviewers,

We thank you for the meaningful comments and appreciate the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We are able to adapt our paper according to the suggestions of you and your reviewers.

Reviewer reports:

Harriet Jane Corbett, MB ChB FRCS (Paed) (Reviewer 3)

This is a very important study which adds to the literature notably. The authors have answered all of the reviewers questions and I believe the manuscript is almost ready for publication. There are a few minor points to clarify or edit:

1. Methods line 92 could be edited to say 'The main management strategy is shown in Figure 1.
   Reply 1: Thank you for your suggestion. We have adapted the sentence according to your suggestion (Line 92).

2. In the results there is some duplication of data in the text and the tables and the text might be minimised, for example: lines 187 and 189 give weight and gestational age of specific infants which is in Table 2.
Reply 2: We agree with this important comment. The text was reduced to avoid redundancy (Line 186-195).

3. Discussion: the final part of the 3rd sentence (line 201) is worded in a confusing way. I understand that the authors wish to say that the clinical findings are non specific, i.e. they do no distinguish between the 3 possible diagnoses. The final part of the sentence could be simplified to say 'are non specific'.
Reply 3: Thank you for this comment. We have rephrased the sentence according to your suggestion (Please see Line 203).

We hope our changes in the manuscript will satisfy the reviewers. Thank you for your consideration for publishing our manuscript in your journal.

Kind Regards

Chuanzhong Yang