Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effect of hypothyroidism on the hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian axis and reproductive function of pregnant rats

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Response letter

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and suggestions. Your comments and those of the reviewers were very valuable for improving our manuscript entitled "Effect of hypothyroidism on the hypothalamic–pituitary–ovarian axis and reproductive function of pregnant rats" (BEND-D-17-00125R4). Based on your suggestions, we wrote a point-by-point response letter to acknowledge your help and we listed the areas in which we made revisions. At this stage, we are submitting a clean version of the manuscript without track changes or highlighting. The main corrections in the paper and the responses to your and the reviewer’s comments are appended below.
With regards,

Datong Deng

Comments from the Editor:

1) Line 131: please indicate how the animals were humanely killed (i.e. cervical dislocation etc)

Response: Thank you for your comments. We added the following statement in the revised manuscript: “One day after G-21, 11 rats that were not pregnant from the hypothyroidism pregnancy group and six rats that were not pregnant from the normal pregnancy group were humanely killed by cervical dislocation under anesthesia.”

2) Line 136: please provide the name of the anesthetic used and its dose for the intraperitoneal anesthesia.

Response: Thank you for your comments. We added the following statement in the methods section of the revised manuscript: “The rats were anesthetized by intraperitoneal injection of 10% chloral hydrate (0.3 mL/100 g).”

3) Authors contribution: did MX, FP and YW have any further contribution to the study beyond reading and approving the final paper as this is not sufficient to warrant authorship? If they did not provide any further contribution then they should be acknowledged rather than authors. See our Editorial Policies at https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#authorship.

Response: We added the following statement to the revised manuscript: “MX and YW contributed to the study design and performed experiments. FP takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of data analysis.”
4) You should enlist the assistance of a native English speaker to assist with the usage of English, i.e.

Line 17: A total of 136 female SD rats were included and randomly divided into...

Line 462: The researchers thank...

Please check throughout

Response: The revised manuscript was re-edited by International Science Editing and I appreciate your suggestions. Proof of editing was provided.

5) Publisher’s Note: please remove this.

Response: “Publisher’s Note” was removed from the revised manuscript.

Responds to the reviewers’ comments:

Reviewer #3:

Miguel Goncalves (Reviewer 3): No further comments.