

Author's response to reviews

Title: Active management of the third stage of labour without controlled cord traction: a randomized non-inferiority controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over

January 14, 2009.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for revising our manuscript. Please find below the responses to Referee 2.

Responses to referee 2:

Background

- 4th Paragraph: Should be rephrased to allow readers to understand the 'technical consultation' that is being referred to. - **This sentence has been replaced by a more informative text.**
- It would be nice to describe (if known) the basis for the introduction of CCT into obstetric practice in the first place so as to express the plausibility of obtaining a result comparable to that of full AMTSL package. For instance, it is unlikely that anyone would think of excluding administration of prophylactic uterotonic in an attempt to simplify AMTSL package in view of the known physiological action of oxytocin. Does CCT have a similar underlying reason why it is essential in the first place? because if not, it makes it easy to appreciate why its absence wouldn't really be missed. - **we think the text provided in the protocol is adequate in this respect. Often practices are introduced on the basis of common sense or biologically plausible pathways. The original reference cites early conclusion of the third stage as an advantage of CCT.**
- 2.1.3 Uterine massage: Provide reference for POPPHI surveys. - **done**

Methods

4.11:

- It might be nice to be specific about the timing for uterotonic administration- 'soon after birth' may be interpreted differently by investigators. If not, it might be necessary to document the time of administration such that appropriate corrections can be made during analysis if need be. - **it is mentioned that it should be within one minute.**
- 4.2: Please define "use of additional uterotonics" - **added text to make it clearer**
- 4.3: Exclusion criteria: What about women already on oxytocin drip for augmentation and those who continue the drip after delivery? Are they going to be excluded? - **no**
- 4.4.3 Typographical error – 2nd to the last line. 5th paragraph (please write sPPH in full) - **done**
- Interim analysis: write GCP in full. - **done**

References:

- No. 1 & 11 are the same. I think the journal citation published by ICM/FIGO may be better than the internet communications being cited. - **repeated reference corrected.**
- No. 9 is incomplete. - **done**
- No. 10: format of the journal name not consistent with others. - **corrected**
- No. 13: the book needs to be referenced as appropriate. - **it is OK as is?**
- No. 14: The published review is now available. - **citation changed**