

## **Pathway analysis of time of pacifier use by children whose mothers are hearing-impaired or have normal-hearing**

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Handling editor:

Michal Heger

*Department of Pharmaceutics, Utrecht University, the Netherlands*

*Department of Pharmaceutics, Jiaxing University Medical College, Zhejiang, China*

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1<sup>st</sup> Editorial decision  
22-Sep-2020

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00077

Pathway analysis of pacifier use time by children of mothers who are deaf or have normal hearing

Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear author(s),

Reviewers have submitted their critical appraisal of your paper. The reviewers' comments are appended below. Based on their comments and evaluation by the editorial board, your work was FOUND SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION AFTER MINOR REVISION.

If you decide to revise the work, please itemize the reviewers' comments and provide a point-by-point response to every comment. An exemplary rebuttal letter can be found on at <http://www.jctres.com/en/author-guidelines/> under "Manuscript preparation." Also, please use the track changes function in the original document so that the reviewers can easily verify your responses.

Your revision is due by Oct 22, 2020.

To submit a revision, go to <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jctres/> and log in as an Author. You will see a menu item call Submission Needing Revision. You will find your submission

record there.

Yours sincerely,

Michal Heger  
Editor-in-Chief  
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1: To: The Editor-in-Chief  
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Paper title: Pathway analysis of pacifier use time by children of mothers who are deaf or have normal hearing

For the editor:

The aim of the paper was to perform a pathway analysis for pacifier use by children of mothers who were deaf or had normal hearing. The study is very relevant, but some issues need to be clarified. I have listed below the major concerns to the authors.

Major concerns

Introduction

1) Authors should emphasize the rationale and impact of the study.

Methods

1) First paragraph, line 2: please check the word "cohort". It was previously mentioned that the study design refers to cross sectional study;

2) In the description of the Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI) questionnaire, it would be interesting to add examples of the questions or the context of the questions to clarify the readers about its content.

3) With respect to the results' section, there are other important variables described in the table, which were not mentioned in the methods section in the topic related to the structured questionnaire. I suggest authors to add these data in the methods section. Please add data related to all variables which were collected.

4) It is important to state whether or not there was a training process before applying the questionnaires for both deaf and hearing mothers.

Results

In the Results section, 2nd paragraph, line1, please check the word 'cohort'. Just like I have mentioned before, if the study was designed as a cross sectional survey, this word must not be

used. It leads to confusion and misunderstanding.

#### Discussion

In the 6th paragraph, line 3, the authors state that the study provides important information about the professionals' communication with deaf mothers. Since professional communication with these mothers was not evaluated in the study, I believe authors should consider other way to address this topic in the discussion section. It seems to be a spurious data. Based in mothers answers, authors might infer that the communication between them and professionals was compromised, but it must be stated as an hypothesis, since the communications itself was not evaluated.

There is additional documentation related to this decision letter. To access the file(s), please click the link below. You may also login to the system and click the 'View Attachments' link in the Action column.

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Authors' response

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Dr. Michal Heger**

Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

**Paper title:** Pathway analysis of pacifier use time by children of mothers who are deaf or have normal hearing (ID – JCTRes-D-29-00077).

Dear Dr. Heger,

On behalf of all co-authors, I'm submitting the revised manuscript "Pathway analysis of pacifier use time by children of mothers who are deaf or have normal hearing" for your appreciation and possible publication in the JCTRes.

The reviewers' and managing editor's suggestions were especially important for the improvement of the article. We are grateful. Our responses to the topics addressed are presented below. The changes in the text are highlighted in red font.

#### **REVIEWER #1:**

Reviewer's comment:

"Introduction

1) Authors should emphasize the rationale and impact of the study."

Authors' response: We wrote the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the 'Introduction' section focusing on the improvement of the rationale of the study as follows.

The sentence was include (page 4, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph): "Non-nutritive suckling habits are common behaviors in the first year of life and can persist throughout childhood. These habits occur in families with mothers who are deaf or have normal hearing.<sup>9</sup> Pacifier sucking is the most prevalent non-nutritive habit among preschool children.<sup>9</sup> This habit can interfere with the harmonious development of the face and dental arches, promote malocclusion, interfere with swallowing and phonation, and discourage breastfeeding.<sup>10-12</sup> In contrast, breastfeeding can prevent the establishment of non-nutritive sucking habits.<sup>12,13</sup> Until now, little is known about causes or pathways that lead to prolonged pacifier use, especially when comparing mothers

with hearing impairment or not. Understanding these paths are important for planning future prevention strategies for pacifier use.”.

Reviewer’s comment:

“Methods

- 1) First paragraph, line 2: please check the word "cohort". It was previously mentioned that the study design refers to cross sectional study;”

Authors’ response: We corrected the text, and the word "cohort" was replaced with “study”.

Reviewer’s comment:

“2) In the description of the Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI) questionnaire, it would be interesting to add examples of the questions or the context of the questions to clarify the readers about its content.”

Authors’ response: We improved the description of the BAI and examples of the content were added in text as follows (page 7, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph).

“The BAI used a self-reported scale that aimed to assess the intensity of anxiety symptoms, differentiating the emotional symptoms from physical symptoms. This tool consisted of 21 items, such as “unable to relax, unsteady, nervous, afraid, heart pounding, fear of losing control, indigestion”, among others.”

Reviewer’s comment:

“3) With respect to the results' section, there are other important variables described in the table, which were not mentioned in the methods section in the topic related to the structured questionnaire. I suggest authors to add these data in the methods section. Please add data related to all variables which were collected.”

Authors’ response: The variables described in the table were added and described in ‘Materials and Methods’ section (Page 6 and 7).

Reviewer’s comment:

“4) It is important to state whether there was a training process before applying the questionnaires for both deaf and hearing mothers.”

Authors’ response: The questionnaire was administered by trained researches. This information was including in text (page 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)

“The interviews were performed by trained researches and administered identically to mothers who are deaf or had normal hearing. Speech therapist specialized in BSL collected data from deaf mothers (RFN). A deaf mother, with higher education, literate in Brazilian sign language, previously trained the speech therapist (RFN) to adapt the dental terms used in the interview. This mother was not included in the data collection.

Reviewer’s comment:

“Results

In the Results section, 2nd paragraph, line1, please check the word 'cohort'. Just like I have mentioned before, if the study was designed as a cross sectional survey, this word must not be used. It leads to confusion and misunderstanding.”

Authors’ response: Thank for you review. We corrected the text, and the word 'cohort' was replaced with 'sample’.

Reviewer’s comment:

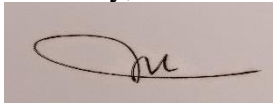
### “Discussion

In the 6th paragraph, line 3, the authors state that the study provides important information about the professionals' communication with deaf mothers. Since professional communication with these mothers was not evaluated in the study, I believe authors should consider other way to address this topic in the discussion section. It seems to be a spurious data. Based in mothers' answers, authors might infer that the communication between them and professionals was compromised, but it must be stated as a hypothesis, since the communications itself was not evaluated.

Authors' response: We agree that it was a writing failure and the interpretation. The text was rewritten as follows:(page 13, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

“This is the first study of a pacifier pathway analysis between mothers who are deaf and normal hearing mothers. It provides important insight regarding the children's oral habits and how hearing loss can be related to these factors. The findings of this study lead to the reflection that the mother's understanding of her children's crying has a strong influence on the duration of use of the pacifier. Although the number of mothers who are deaf in the study is small due to the low prevalence of the deaf population,<sup>1</sup> it met the power analysis requirements for an adequate sample size and is not a limitation of the study. Future quantitative and qualitative studies with individuals who are deaf should be encouraged. Healthcare professionals should be prepared to communicate with mothers who are deaf and deal with their anxieties. Health professionals should advise mothers concerning the consequences of pacifier use for children and the best communication between professionals and families should be encouraged. This should be further investigated in future studies.”

Sincerely,



**Prof Júnia Maria Serra-Negra**

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2nd Editorial decision  
30-Sep-2020

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00077R1

Pathway analysis of pacifier use time by children of mothers who are deaf or have normal hearing

Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear author(s),

Reviewers have submitted their critical appraisal of your paper. The reviewers' comments are appended below. Based on their comments and evaluation by the editorial board, your work was FOUND SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION AFTER MINOR REVISION.

If you decide to revise the work, please itemize the reviewers' comments and provide a point-by-point response to every comment. An exemplary rebuttal letter can be found on at <http://www.jctres.com/en/author-guidelines/> under "Manuscript preparation." Also, please use the track changes function in the original document so that the reviewers can easily verify your responses.

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Yours sincerely,

Michal Heger  
Editor-in-Chief  
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Reviewers' comments:

Dear authors, thank you for uploading a revised version of your manuscript. The revised version has been deemed adequate in terms of addressing the reviewer's comments. Before we can proceed with accepting your article, however, I must ask you to thoroughly proofread your paper and correct the numerous grammatical, spelling, and syntax mistakes. For example, "researches" should read "researchers." If you can, have the proofreading be done by a native speaker.

Thank you,

Michal Heger  
Editor

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Authors' response

**October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**

**Dr. Michal Heger**  
Editor-in-Chief  
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

**Paper title: Pathway Analysis of Time of Pacifier Use by Children Whose Mothers are Hearing-impaired or have Normal-hearing (ID – JCTRes-D-29-00077).**

Dear Dr. Heger,  
On behalf of all co-authors, I'm submitting the revised manuscript "Pathway analysis of pacifier use time by children of mothers who are deaf or have normal hearing" for your appreciation and possible publication in the JCTRes.

The reviewers' and suggestions were especially important for the improvement of the article. We are grateful. Our responses to the topics addressed are presented below.

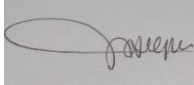
**REVIEWER #1:**

Reviewer's comment: Dear authors, thank you for uploading a revised version of your manuscript. The revised version has been deemed adequate in terms of addressing the reviewer's comments. Before we can proceed with accepting your article, however, I must ask you to thoroughly proofread your paper and correct the numerous grammatical, spelling, and

syntax mistakes. For example, "researches" should read "researchers." If you can, have the proofreading be done by a native speaker.

Authors' response: We corrected all grammatical, spelling, and syntax mistakes. A proofreading was done by a native speaker. The certificate of professional English review is submitted as supplementary material.

Sincerely,



Prof. Junia Maria Serra-Negra

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3rd Editorial decision  
04-Oct-2020

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-20-00077R2

Pathway Analysis of Time of Pacifier Use by Children Whose Mothers are Hearing-impaired or have Normal-hearing.

Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear authors,

I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical and Translational Research.

You will receive the proofs of your article shortly, which we kindly ask you to thoroughly review for any errors.

Thank you for submitting your work to JCTR.

Kindest regards,

Michal Heger  
Editor-in-Chief  
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Comments from the editors and reviewers: