

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY



NOTICE: This document contains comments from the reviewers and editors generated during peer review of the initial manuscript submission and sent to the author via email.

Questions about these materials may be directed to the *Obstetrics & Gynecology* editorial office:
obgyn@greenjournal.org.

Date: Nov 01, 2018
To: "Recia Frenn" [REDACTED]
From: "The Green Journal" em@greenjournal.org
Subject: Your Submission ONG-18-1876

RE: Manuscript Number ONG-18-1876

Birth Matters

Dear Dr. Frenn:

Your manuscript has been reviewed by the Editorial Board and by special expert referees. Although it is judged not acceptable for publication in Obstetrics & Gynecology in its present form, we would be willing to give further consideration to a revised version.

If you wish to consider revising your manuscript, you will first need to study carefully the enclosed reports submitted by the referees and editors. Each point raised requires a response, by either revising your manuscript or making a clear and convincing argument as to why no revision is needed. To facilitate our review, we prefer that the cover letter include the comments made by the reviewers and the editor followed by your response. The revised manuscript should indicate the position of all changes made. We suggest that you use the "track changes" feature in your word processing software to do so (rather than strikethrough or underline formatting).

Your paper will be maintained in active status for 21 days from the date of this letter. If we have not heard from you by Nov 22, 2018, we will assume you wish to withdraw the manuscript from further consideration.

REVIEWER COMMENTS:

REVIEWER #1:

The author submits a personal perspective on the birth of her son. I appreciate the author's willingness to share her story. I have the following comments regarding the manuscript:

1. Line 31. What is being quoted here? A discharge summary? Would be helpful to clarify.
2. Line 35-36. Consider rewording this sentence. It is unclear what is meant by "I would be reporting my birth otherwise". Otherwise? In another forum? In a different way? With a different perspective?
3. Line 43. Can this idea be expanded a little bit? What other thoughts may women have other than if a cesarean would change the outcome?
4. Line 147. Remember that you are speaking to obstetricians. What do you mean by a "somewhat dramatic" intrapartum course?
5. Line 49. Arterial cord gas would be singular in this case or could change just to gases implying both venous and arterial.
6. Line 49. APGAR is not an acronym. It is from the name Virginia Apgar. Change "APGARs" to "Apgar scores".
7. Line 51-52 seem out of place. Consider moving down. Or tie it in with your prior paragraph. Do you mean you still worried about complications from the delivery even though you knew logically that was not the case?
8. Line 67. "A quality of life" or "better quality of life".
9. Line 99-100. I would be careful about providing specific examples of colleges and professions in this paragraph. While I understand that the author is trying to justify a point that she is making it could be perceived as very derogatory to people in the cited profession (grocery bagger) or at a community college.
10. Line 103. Remove and/or. Just write "walk or talk".
11. Line 117. It felt like an abrupt transition to the discussion of feeling of hope after the third birthday.

12. Line 169. You mention that you have changed the way you talk to patients and families. Can you expand this idea a bit? How do you talk to them? What would be helpful? You have our attention but have not told us what to do. Perhaps think about why you called this piece "Birth Matters".

13. If you have not done so already, consider sharing this with the obstetrician who delivered Rowan.

REVIEWER #2:

This is an extremely well written story of a physician who has become a parent of a child with marked disabilities. The writing of this is an important event for the author and I hope she is not affected in a major negative manner the next time she performs a delivery in which the neonate suffers an injury, even if it is unpreventable. Being a senior physician I can assure the author that she will experience numerous adverse outcomes in her obstetric career. I caution her not to be too hard on herself as I can attest to the negative impact it can have on the her well being. The only thing I suggest is that she add a short statement on the effects of her son's development on her significant other and the grandparents. I suspect she has not dealt with this profound life altering situation by herself.

REVIEWER #3:

The author has written a beautiful personal essay about her own journey as a mother and obstetrician with her son Rowan. While I do think this piece has the potential to be quite interesting to readers and present the challenge of being both an OB and a mother of a special needs child I think there are some concerns about the essay itself. While the title is Birth Matters, the essay is really not about birth. And most of it is about the author's son - which makes sense of course, but the real theme of the title and introduction. My feedback is that the essay needs to be reworked. Is it a piece about how special needs parents will always question their pregnancy and delivery? Or is it about understanding the role of a special needs parent? I think with some judicious editing of the last half of the second and third pages the story could be the former. Maybe to focus on the time before the diagnosis when even a perfect birth could be scrutinized. Again this is a beautiful story and I think it is so critical for physicians to share their humanity and even how we relate to patients when challenges and tragedy enter our own homes. I just think that for the sake of the message and the reader walking away with the important message, the piece needs to be reworked.

EDITORIAL OFFICE COMMENTS:

1. The Editors of Obstetrics & Gynecology are seeking to increase transparency around its peer-review process, in line with efforts to do so in international biomedical peer review publishing. If your article is accepted, we will be posting this revision letter as supplemental digital content to the published article online. Additionally, unless you choose to opt out, we will also be including your point-by-point response to the revision letter, as well as subsequent author queries. If you opt out of including your response, only the revision letter will be posted. Please reply to this letter with one of two responses:

1. OPT-IN: Yes, please publish my response letter and subsequent email correspondence related to author queries.
2. OPT-OUT: No, please do not publish my response letter and subsequent email correspondence related to author queries.

2. Each author on this manuscript must submit a completed copy of our revised author agreement form (updated in the January 2018 issue). Please note:

a) Any material included in your submission that is not original or that you are not able to transfer copyright for must be listed under I.B on the first page of the author agreement form.

b) All authors must disclose any financial involvement that could represent potential conflicts of interest in an attachment to the author agreement form.

c) All authors must indicate their contributions to the submission by checking the applicable boxes on the author agreement form.

d) The role of authorship in Obstetrics & Gynecology is reserved for those individuals who meet the criteria recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE; <http://www.icmje.org>):

* Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work;

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the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work;

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* Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content;

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* Final approval of the version to be published;

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any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

The author agreement form is available online at <http://edmgr.ovid.com/ong/accounts/agreementform.pdf>. Signed forms should be scanned and uploaded into Editorial Manager with your other manuscript files. Any forms collected after your revision is submitted may be e-mailed to obgyn@greenjournal.org.

2. Standard obstetric and gynecology data definitions have been developed through the reVITALize initiative, which was convened by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the members of the Women's Health Registry Alliance. Obstetrics & Gynecology will be transitioning as much as possible to use of the reVITALize definitions, and we encourage authors to familiarize themselves with them. The obstetric data definitions are available at <http://links.lww.com/AOG/A515>, and the gynecology data definitions are available at <http://links.lww.com/AOG/A935>.

3. Because of space limitations, it is important that your revised manuscript adhere to the following length restrictions by manuscript type: Personal Perspectives essays should not exceed 12 typed, double-spaced pages (3,000 words). Stated page limits include all numbered pages in a manuscript (i.e., title page, précis, abstract, text, references, tables, boxes, figure legends, and appendixes).

Please limit your Introduction to 250 words and your Discussion to 750 words.

4. Specific rules govern the use of acknowledgments in the journal. Please edit your acknowledgments or provide more information in accordance with the following guidelines:

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- * All persons who contributed to the work reported in the manuscript, but not sufficiently to be authors, must be acknowledged. Written permission must be obtained from all individuals named in the acknowledgments, as readers may infer their endorsement of the data and conclusions. Please note that your signature on the journal's author agreement form verifies that permission has been obtained from all named persons.
- * If all or part of the paper was presented at the Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or at any other organizational meeting, that presentation should be noted (include the exact dates and location of the meeting).

5. Provide a short title of no more than 45 characters (40 characters for case reports), including spaces, for use as a running foot.

6. Provide a précis on the second page, for use in the Table of Contents. The précis is a single sentence of no more than 25 words, written in the present tense and stating the conclusion(s) of the report (ie, the bottom line). The précis should be similar to the abstract's conclusion. Do not use commercial names, abbreviations, or acronyms in the précis. Please avoid phrases like "This paper presents" or "This case presents."

7. Only standard abbreviations and acronyms are allowed. A selected list is available online at <http://edmgr.ovid.com/ong/accounts/abbreviations.pdf>. Abbreviations and acronyms cannot be used in the title or précis. Abbreviations and acronyms must be spelled out the first time they are used in the abstract and again in the body of the manuscript.

8. The journal does not use the virgule symbol (/) in sentences with words. Please rephrase your text to avoid using "and/or," or similar constructions throughout the text. You may retain this symbol if you are using it to express data or a measurement.

If you choose to revise your manuscript, please submit your revision via Editorial Manager for Obstetrics & Gynecology at <http://ong.editorialmanager.com>. It is essential that your cover letter list point-by-point the changes made in response to each criticism. Also, please save and submit your manuscript in a word processing format such as Microsoft Word.

If you submit a revision, we will assume that it has been developed in consultation with your co-authors, that each author has given approval to the final form of the revision, and that the agreement form signed by each author and submitted with the initial version remains valid.

Again, your paper will be maintained in active status for 21 days from the date of this letter. If we have not heard from you by Nov 22, 2018, we will assume you wish to withdraw the manuscript from further consideration.

Sincerely,

The Editors of Obstetrics & Gynecology

2017 IMPACT FACTOR: 4.982

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