

Author's response to reviews

Title: Diagnostic utility of zinc protoporphyrin to detect iron deficiency in Kenyan preschool children: a community-based survey

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BHEM-D-16-00039R1 Diagnostic utility of zinc protoporphyrin to detect iron deficiency in Kenyan preschool children: a community-based survey

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BMC Hematology

Editor's comments

1. Please ensure to address the final comment provided by Reviewer 1 (at the bottom of this email).

Done as requested.

2. Please include the trial registration number (TRN), date of registration and the name of the registry as the last line of the manuscript abstract.

We have now include the name of the registry "ClinicalTrials.gov" (line 69)

3. Please ensure that there are the following declarations in the declarations section. Please ensure to use the correct sub-headings. Please be aware that ALL sections are compulsory and any section that is not relevant to this article should still be included with 'not applicable' stated for that section.

List of abbreviations Included (line 511)

Declarations

- Ethics approval and consent to participate (Included in lines 519-522 and 524-525 respectively)
- Consent to publish (Included in Lines 527-528)
- Availability of data and materials (included in lines 541-543)
- Competing interests (Included in 537-538)
- Funding (Included in lines 545-547)
- Authors' Contributions (Included in lines 530-535)
- Acknowledgements (Included in lines 549-553)
- Authors' Information Email addresses for the co-authors are provided on lines 27-28

4. Please remove the figure caption(s)/title(s) from within the image files. These files should contain the image graphic (and any associated keys) only.

This has now been modified as requested.

5. Please ensure to provide each figure as a separate file, not embedded within the main manuscript body.

Done and included separately, both as .emf and as .tiff files.

Reviewer reports:

Crystal D Karakochuk, PhD, RD (Reviewer 1): Just one minor point - regarding altitude of the study area and hemoglobin concentration cut off. In areas of >1,000 m the hemoglobin cut off for anemia should be adjusted. See Sullivan et al. Trop Med Int Health. 2008 Oct;13(10):1267-71.

To account for altitude, we have now adjusted the cut-off point for haemoglobin concentration as per recommendations by the World Health Organization (our reference 9; lines 194-196).

Otherwise, the authors have satisfactorily responded to my comments.

No comments required.

Madeleine Verhovsek (Reviewer 2): The authors have satisfactorily addressed all reviewer feedback.

No comments required.