Author’s response to reviews

Title: A 20-year retrospective cohort study of TB infection among the Hill-tribe HIV/AIDS populations, Thailand

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Author’s response to reviews:

MAJOR

Clarify statistics for risk of TB and survival among those with AIDS and symptomatic compared to those with HIV only.

; Revised whole process with helped by biostatisticians.

DETAILED COMMENTS

ABSTRACT

This tends to have many numbers. Its often better to put in mainly the text and leave numbers in the results section. This is optional - and partly depends on word count.

: Revised and improved

Background - good. Well written.

Figure one useful guide. However, is there a difference in the origin or destination sites of the various tribes - to account for some differences seen in the results. If so a second map showing this would be useful.

: Added one more picture (Figure No.2)

Line 16 Approx 1,600,000 HILL tribe…..

: Corrected

METHODS

The methods section well written - with good grammar

RESULTS

1. Line 35 - episode of TB disease better than case
2. Table 2 text - Suggest adding more text to bring out main findings - eg point out which tribes, occupation etc were more at risk of having TB disease etc.

改善

3. Table 3 text - avoid repeating too many of the stat in the text - rather refer to the tables for these details.

改善

4. Discuss possible explanation for increased Tb cases over time - was it better services, awareness, diagnosis, integration, recognition by government or other potential factors to explain this

完成

5. Lines 40-41 re occupation and elsewhere - avoid the term "preventive factor" , rather "less likely to have TB" as one cannot show causation.

完成

6. MTCT - was this a cofounder of age, as all these subjects were most likely children.

Also low Tb in children could have been due to limited diagnostic options - consider this in discussion.

改善

7. "ARV as a preventive factor" is confusing. Please relook at the statistics for this portion. Otherwise consider various reasons in discussion

修订统计和内容

8. Discuss why survival was less among some tribes. Any particular local factors?

改善

9. Also HIV outcomes worse than AIDS or symptomatic. This may need some review of the statistics

改善更多和相关文章

FIGURES

Table 1 - children<7 "add years", same with students.
Corrected

ARV - add initiated

Added

Symptomatic - what does this mean? Was the IHV status known or unknown.

Corrected

What was the definition for "AIDS". Was this clinical or based on lab or clinical parameters?

Cleared

Is this table showing data at baseline - i.e. first visit from the records, or at any time?

Cleared

Table 2 - better to arrange tribes by alphabetical order or by highest to lowest numbers

Done

Employee - better Casual, or Temporary employee

Done

DISCUSSION

1. Discussion section starts with limitation - better to start with an overview summary of main results. Otherwise first section of discussion good.

Done

2. From line 29 onwards, most of the discussion hinges on comparisons with other studies. these are okay, but they are other areas in the results that need more discussion.

Revised and done

3. Consider the issues pointed out above in results that call for more discussion.

Done with many more relevant articles.

The main areas that need more

A number of grammatical errors re appear in the discussion section. These need correction e.g. line 19 "A little subject...."Line 46 Other reasons..... number recorded
cases..... add an of, Line 51 "Vermund reported that in SE Asia faced the problem...." etc etc.

: Revised by Professor Holly Patrick

Line 41 - clarify the distinction between Tb disease and infection

: Done

Page 16 - what is IUD???

: Corrected

Suicide issue needs some reference

: Revised