Author's response to reviews

Title: A Multi-arm Multi-stage Clinical Trial Design for Binary Outcomes with Application to Tuberculosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Referee 1:

The authors have addressed my previous comments well. There remains only one statement the authors may wish to alter:

Minor revision
In the last paragraph of the discussion it says "Such a correction may be acceptable in a trial with a large number of arms and low FWER, otherwise it will result in a trial that is larger than necessary, thus losing efficiency." I believe that adding more arms increases the conservatism of the Bonferroni adjustment in this setting rather than decreases it. To see note that under the null many treatments will be dropped prior to the final analysis. For dropped treatments, however, no error correction is necessary as no hypothesis can be incorrectly be rejected. Increasing the number of treatments increases the number of dropped treatments and hence make the adjustment to stringent.

Response: We thank the reviewer for highlighting this and have amended the sentence to read “However, such a correction can be too conservative and may result in a trial which is much larger than might be necessary, thus losing efficiency.”

We have also amended the title of the manuscript to make it clear that we are concerned with clinical trials: “A Multi-arm Multi-stage Clinical Trial Design for Binary Outcomes with Application to Tuberculosis”