Author’s response to reviews

Title: Gastric and intestinal barrier impairment in African adults: a randomised controlled trial of micronutrient supplementation

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Thank you for considering our article for publication in BMC Gastroenterology. The phenomenon of enteropathy and bacterial translocation is of considerable interest just now as it may drive systemic immune activation and sepsis in HIV/AIDS and it has a role in cirrhosis and in critical care. We examined gastric and intestinal barrier function in a series of sub-studies during the course of a randomized controlled trial of micronutrient supplementation and found modest effects on gastric pH, anti-LPS antibodies, and we found strong effects of HIV on gastric pH. These findings may be of interest to the research community interested in translocation and in intestinal barrier function, and through BMC Gastroenterology we hope to reach a wide audience. There are no competing interests.