Author's response to reviews

Title: Spectrum and antibiotic sensitivity of bacteria contaminating upper gut in patients with malabsorption syndrome from the tropics

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PDF covering letter
Title of the paper: Spectrum and antibiotic sensitivity of bacteria contaminating upper gut in patients with malabsorption syndrome from the tropics

Dear Sir,

Thanks for your constructive criticisms on our above paper. We have revised our paper as per reviewers’ comments. We have also revised it as per instruction to authors of BMC journal. We have considered all 30 points while revising our paper. We have marked all the major modifications in the revised manuscript are in pink fonts. We hope that it will now meet the standard of your journal. The point-by-point responses to reviewers’ comments are as follows:

**Reviewer 1.**

1. We have quoted the 2 references given by the reviewer. However, in these studies, they used hydrogen breath test to study small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO). Therefore, they did not elucidate the spectrum and antibiotic sensitivity of bacteria. Further, these were children with malnutrition and not proved cases of malabsorption syndrome (MAS). Therefore, our study is the first study on spectrum and antibiotic sensitivity of bacteria in patients with MAS from the tropics.

2. We agree with the reviewer that culture of the intestinal biopsy is one of the method for diagnosis of SIBO. However, mucosal biopsy is prone to get contaminated with the bacteria in biopsy channel of the endoscope. Further, the method used by us is also an accurate method.

**Reviewer 2.**

1. We have added a hypothesis in the background section of our paper.
2. We agree that approach to systematically validating response to treatment could have been inadequate. Therefore, we deleted this part from the manuscript as suggested by the reviewer.

3. We have added (b) in the first paragraph of method section (last sentence).

**Reviewer 3.**

1. We have given the results of culture of jejunal aspirate for each malabsorption entity.