Author's response to reviews

Title: Systemic bacteraemia in children presenting with clinical pneumonia and the impact of non-typhoid salmonella (NTS)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To the
Editors of BMC Infectious Diseases

Concerning: MS 1435635659390782 Replies to Reviewers

Dear Editors,

Before addressing the remaining comments of the two reviewers we shortly want to address your editorial comments:
We revised the title page and included the email addresses of all authors. Furthermore you recommended copyediting the paper to improve the style of the written English. Prof. Yaw Adu-Sarkodie proofread the whole paper. As a Ghanaian scholar he grow up bilingual one language being English. Both reviewers appraised the quality of written English as acceptable. We abstained from sending our manuscript to a professional copyediting service. I hope that our manuscript now meets your quality standards.

Here are our replies to the last remaining reviewer concerns:

Reviewer 1 (Stephen Graham)

Reviewer's report Title: Systemic bacteraemia in children presenting with clinical pneumonia and the impact of non-typhoid salmonella (NTS)
Version: 2 Date: 12 August 2010

Reviewer's report:
Thank you for addressing the comments made in initial review. The paper could read more clearly with some editorial attention. I have made this suggestion to the editors.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests: 'I declare that I have no competing interests'

Reviewer 2 (James Berkley)

Reviewer's report Title: Systemic bacteraemia in children presenting with clinical pneumonia and
The manuscript is much more authoritative now that the current definitions of pneumonia syndromes have been used in analysis and the laboratory methods clarified. The result, which challenges the use of single agent penicillin makes an important contribution to the field.

Two suggestions on the revised manuscript:

i) In the abstract and first part of the discussion, it would be more informative to give the proportions amongst children who had blood cultures taken rather than amongst pathogens isolated. e.g. 21/46 (45%) ought to be 21/197 (11%) etc.

We changed the abstract accordingly.

ii) The conclusion in the abstract is a little weak and should be replaced by the excellent conclusion given in the main text: "Amino-penicillins, may often not be adequate for the treatment of children presenting with pneumonia symptoms in Sub-saharan Africa and NTS in children with pneumonia should be considered."

If the word count for the abstract is limiting to make this change, then I suggest editing the background paragraph: "...facilities such as x-ray or microbiological laboratories relies on clinical symptoms according to the World Health Organisation Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (WHO-IMCI)." to become "...facilities such as x-ray or microbiological laboratories relies on clinical syndromes."

We changed the conclusion accordingly. Thanks again for the constructive reviewing style.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further inquiries.

Best wishes

Norbert Schwarz