Author's response to reviews

Title: Seroprevalence of transfusion-transmissible infections and evaluation of the pre-donation screening performance at the Provincial Hospital of Tete, Mozambique

Authors:

Emmanuel Bottieau (ebottieau@itg.be)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our manuscript "Seroprevalence of transfusion-transmissible infections and evaluation of the pre-donation screening performance at the Provincial Hospital of Tete, Mozambique" we would like you consider for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Transmission of blood-borne pathogens during transfusion is a major issue in low-resource settings, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa. However, updated epidemiological data are scarce in a country like Mozambique, and particularly in peripheral settings. In addition, screening strategy by rapid diagnostic tests has been little studied, although it is increasingly implemented in provincial/rural hospitals where reference diagnosis of transfusion-transmissible infections is just not available. This study aims to provide lacking prevalence data of regional importance as well as to evaluate the local screening strategies based on questionnaire and rapid/simple point-of-care tests. We think our findings provide interesting and broader operational insights for the readership of your open access Journal (clinicians, biologists, health managers), in particular on the importance of quality assurance testing for transfusion in remote areas. Our study has been presented to the national health authorities and has already allowed some policy changes in Mozambique.

Material has not and will not be offered elsewhere for possible publication, as long as it is under BMC Infectious Diseases consideration.
All undersigned contributing authors have participated in the study, reviewed the manuscript and concur with the submission.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Gillet
pgillet@itg.be