Author's response to reviews

Title: Effect of praziquantel treatment of Schistosoma mansoni during pregnancy on immune responses to schistosome antigens among the offspring: results of a randomised, placebo-controlled trial.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Cover Letter for the manuscript: Effect of praziquantel treatment of *Schistosoma mansoni* during pregnancy on immune responses to schistosome antigens among the offspring: results of a randomised, placebo-controlled trial.

I am glad to resubmit to you the manuscript “Effect of praziquantel treatment of *Schistosoma mansoni* during pregnancy on immune responses to schistosome antigens among the offspring: results of a randomised, placebo-controlled trial.” after addressing the following concerns were addresses

1. To address/ state whether the research conformed to the Helsinki Declaration ([http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm](http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm)), and to local legislation. The following section was included in the methodology

   **Ethical consideration:** Written informed consent was obtained from each participant as previously described [28]. For the infants’ participation, consent was obtained from the mother or father or guardian if both parents were deceased. Ethical approval was obtained from the Science and Ethics Committee of Uganda Virus Research Institute – Ministry of Health, the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

2. At the end of the abstract the statement, “Trial registration: Current Controlled Trials ISRCTN32849447” has been included

   Again I reaffirm that this article brings to light result of the first ever trial study of praziquantel treatment during pregnancy and the information conveyed in this article may be used to support public health policy regarding de-worming during pregnancy. This may be particularly crucial for schistosomiasis control programs in regions where schistosomiasis is endemic and there are community based schistosomiasis treatment programs. In these community based treatment programs, pregnant women are inevitably involved and it is therefore essential to know the possible effects of the treatment. This article provides information on the effect of the treatment on schistosome-specific cytokine and antibody responses.

Yours sincerely

Robert Tweyongyere