Author's response to reviews

Title: Epidemiological and Clinical Features of Human Rabies Cases in Bali 2008-2010

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover Letter

Dear Madam/Sir

Herewith we submit a revision-2 of our manuscript with the title “Epidemiological and Clinical Features of Human Rabies Cases in Bali 2008-2010”. All comments and suggestions of the reviewer has been addressed adequately as copied-and-pasted in the next pages of this cover letter.

We are looking forward to having further instructions.

Denpasar, Bali, March 20, 2012

Sincerely Your's

GNK Mahardika

Corresponding Author
Reviewer-1’s report:

1. Authors’ statement in the conclusion of the abstract and the text is incorrect. Rabies related deaths are not due to lack of awareness and lack of RIG exclusively, but a combination of non-vaccination and absence of wound cleansing. Receiving RIG without vaccination does not protect against rabies. In contrast, vaccination without RIG can save lives. Your statement is misleading. Please correct!
   Response
   The conclusion has been changed accordingly which also addressing the comment no 6 as the following

   Rabies is a major public health problem in Bali. Human fatalities occur because of a lack of knowledge regarding rabies risk, the poor management of dog bites, and the limited availability of RIG. Increasing public awareness of dog bite management, increasing the availability of ARV and RIG, and implementing an island-wide dog vaccination campaign will help prevent human rabies cases.

2. In discussion section, 3rd paragraph before end: should read rabies prevention for humans is all about awareness… most efficient measure to protect humans is actually vaccination of dogs!
   Response
   The paragraph has been added with the following statement

   The most efficient measure for human protection is actually the vaccination of dogs. As proven worldwide, the elimination of canine rabies and the prevention of human rabies mortality is feasible through mass vaccination of domestic dogs [12] [25] [26] [27]. Public awareness must be continuously maintained, not only in rabies infected areas but also on neighbouring islands that have never experienced the disease [28] [29].

3. In discussion section, 2nd paragraph before end: please change from eradicate the epidemic to eliminate rabies as eradicate means elimination of the disease from the planet; secondly we don’t eradicate an epidemic.
   Response
   The sentence has been changed with the following

   Publicity and education about the risk and prevention of rabies, as well as high rates of dog vaccination, properly trained medical personnel, and adequate vaccine and RIG supplies are necessary and important for the prevention of human rabies cases and the care of those potentially exposed.

4. Please consider changing the labeling of numbers on fig 2 (map): # (#%) instead of (# / #%) 
   Response
   This recommendation has been adopted (see fig 2)

5. Please check carefully language and typos errors: e.g. “those potentially exposed” not potential...
Response
Has been changed. Language and typing errors have been fixed by the English speaking author (Frank S Wignall) and copyediting by an institution recommended by BMC (www.edanzediting.com/bmc1).

6. Finally, please consider beefing up your conclusion on recommending strongly the public health authorities in Bali in collaboration with Veterinary services to eliminate rabies from the island: every efforts should be made to ensure elimination ....
Response
It has been changed. Please see response to comment 1. This makes the conclusion a bit too long. We wish this acceptable. The sentence became the following

Rabies is a major public health problem in Bali. Human fatalities occur because of a lack of knowledge regarding rabies risk, the poor management of dog bites, and the limited availability of RIG. Increasing public awareness of dog bite management, increasing the availability of ARV and RIG, and implementing an island-wide dog vaccination campaign will help prevent human rabies cases.

7. Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published.
Response
Language and typing errors have been fixed by the English speaking author (Frank S Wignall) and copyediting by an institution recommended by BMC (www.edanzediting.com/bmc1).

Response to Reviewer-2’s report

1. The authors have substantially changed the style and presentation of the manuscript as suggested. However, use of English not appropriate in some places ( This may be looked in to by the editors )
Response
Language and typing errors have been fixed by the English speaking author (Frank S Wignall) and copyediting by an institution recommended by BMC (www.edanzediting.com/bmc1).

2. As suggested, Materials and Methods have been modified in relation to FAT PCR etc. Figures for PCR given Minor revisions: Adequately addressed by the authors.
Response
The document has been fixed

3. Quality of written English: Acceptable
Response
Language and typing errors have been fixed by the English speaking author (Frank S Wignall) and copyediting by an institution recommended by BMC (www.edanzediting.com/bmc1).