Author's response to reviews

Title: Cross-sectional study of hepatitis B virus infection in rural communities, Central African Republic

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for your prompt comments about our revised manuscript, MS: 1593046211922741. See enclosed our response to your comment:

Comment: " table 1: now contains column totals but needs a row total as well (ie totals for each of the columns -male and female and overall). I hadn't noticed that there were so many more females than males included in the sample -was this representative of the population? what was the response rate for the study? An estimate of Population prevalence (ie seroprevalence standardised to the population distribution) would be good to add into the total row. Prior to publication the additional bracket should be removed from the 95% CI heading in the last column."

Response:

- Table1 is revised according to comment.
- There is more females than males in the general Central African Republic population. Usually, more female subjects participate to this kind of study than male subjects because female subjects are unemployed and available. We randomly selected subjects in the order of "first arrived first served" until we reached the fixed number taking into account the criteria of free of symptoms of hepatitis.

- See below the Table 1, the population prevalence estimated value is 24.2% (seroprevalence standardised to the population distribution) and as consequence:
- In the Results section, we add in the paragraph:
Serology and geographical distribution of hepatitis B virus in the four prefectures:
"......The population prevalence estimation value was 24.2% after the seroprevalence standardisation analysis using the CAR population distribution........"

- The additional bracket is removed from the 95%CI heading in the last column