Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Predictors of Mortality among TB-HIV Co-infected Patients being treated for Tuberculosis in Northwest Ethiopia: A retrospective cohort study

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Confidential comments to editors

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Comments:

Explanations to Editor’s

1. TB infected is different from TB disease, and authors need to clarify here. They are looking at TB disease, HIV infected persons
   Ok, we considered and we are looking TB patients (TB disease), HIV positive persons

2. Pg 3- “Participants paragraph bottom” – Transferred in and transferred out confusing and can be deleted
   Ok, Corrected

3. Pg 4- “Data collection para” – avoid past tense eg “They had collected data” and use “data was collected” throughout the para
   Ok, corrected

4. Pg 5- “Measurement of variables” para – Classification of CPT rather irrelevant as it is hanging – and not used again
   Ok, corrected

5. Pg 5 - “Measurement of variables” para last lines – definition of ambulatory and bedridden not quite true. Could revise score to use Karnofsky score which is a better parameter.
   These definitions were taken from the national pre-ART and ART registration forms

6. Pg 6 – “Results”- “followed retrospectively” not very clear
   Ok, this is to mean that data for the cohorts was collected reviewing records of patients in the last four years before the study conducted. And this is corrected in the document.

7. Pg 7 – “Baseline socio-demo…”” avoid “secondary school graduates’
   Ok, corrected
8. Pg 7 “Clinical Characteristics” para “prophylactic medication” unclear
Ok, Prophylactic medication is one variable included in the national Pre-ART and ART recording format to assess whether HIV positive patients have got medication to prevent diarrheal disease, fungal infection. Recommended prophylactic medications are cotrimoxazol, fluconazol and others.

9. Pg 8- “predictors of mortality….” Para PTB+ is actually Smear positive PTB, so pse correct
Ok, corrected

10. Discussion
a. Start with a brief summary of major findings
Ok, I have revised
b. Pg 10 bottom “The variation could a result of…” add be
Ok, corrected
c. Too many results in discussion, avoid repeating all these numbers
Ok, I have revised
d. Pg 12 1st para repetition of pg 11 first para
Ok, I have revised. Pg 11 first para states on magnitude of mortality during TB treatment and Pg 12 1st para states survival benefit of ART during TB treatment.
e. Pg 13 – 3rd line- What “WHO” says is not what study showed with regards to Smear pos vs smear neg mortality
I have revised the document
f. Overall the discussion has mainly comparisons with other study. I think message is study confirmed what was shown elsewhere re mortality higher with no ART irrespective of CD4 count, yet many countries not yet implementing “WHO” guidelines of HAART for all TB patients for worry of tablet load and side effects – an issue that now has to be handled in controlled trials looking at pts response/acceptance/side effects etc to dual therapy