Author's response to reviews

Title: Identification of Streptococcus agalactiae by fluorescent in situ hybridization compared to culturing and the determination of prevalence of Streptococcus agalactiae colonization among pregnant women in Bushehr, Iran

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Identification of *Streptococcus agalactiae* by fluorescent in situ hybridization compared to culturing and the determination of prevalence of *Streptococcus agalactiae* colonization among pregnant women in Bushehr, Iran

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Dear Dr. Philippa Harris

Thank you for considering our manuscript. We have now revised the manuscript where all of the reviewer’s comments have been addressed and modifications have been incorporated exactly as requested by the reviewer. As reviewer has strongly suggested, Tables 2 and 3 and the corresponding data and analyses have been removed from the paper. The prevalence has been reported on the 285 samples tested by culture and FISH. We have shown the new corrections with a yellow highlight color in the revised manuscript.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

4. As reviewer strongly recommended, the additional 47 women were deleted from the paper. We made necessary corrections in the text (in the Results, Discussion and Abstract [Methods and Results]). The prevalence was reported in 285 cultured samples exactly as reviewer recommended.

After deleting those 47 samples, as well as Tables 2 and 3 and related analyses in the Methods and Results, those sentences requested to be revised were consequently deleted from the manuscript.
MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

1. In accordance to strong and main suggestion of reviewer concerning removing all of the data in Tables 2 and 3 and the corresponding analyses, this analysis and related critique/comment were also deleted from the paper.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS

As a result of deleting Tables 2 and 3 and related analyses, this statement (i.e. the trend was significant) was also deleted from the manuscript. Last paragraph (lines 292-297) of Discussion of the manuscript was deleted from the manuscript.

As the reviewer has stated, comments 3, 5, and 6 have been adequately addressed in the manuscript.

As you are aware, our manuscript has been under review for a long time and has gone under multiple revisions. Since we have addressed all of the reviewer’s comments and concerns in the revised manuscript, we respectfully request that the next steps be expedited and we look forward to a fast and positive response.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could confirm receipt of this covering letter and the revised manuscript. Thank you very much for all your help and guidance throughout this process.

Best Regards

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