Author's response to reviews

Title: Community-acquired diarrhea among children and adults in urban setting in Senegal: clinical, epidemiological and microbiological aspects

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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To Dr Sven Poppert
Associate editor
BMC Infectious Diseases

MS: 7691153839817602. “Community-acquired diarrhea among children and adults in urban settings in Senegal: clinical, epidemiological and microbiological aspects”

Dear Dr Sven Poppert,

Please find enclosed a second revised version of our article.
We thank the reviewers for their comments, which we found extremely constructive.
Please find below our point-by-point responses.

Reviewer 1: Dr Estelle Kanyala
Comment 1:
- Result section, p8, lines 172-173: In view of published data about viral infections in children under 5 years old, we performed this complementary analysis to confirm that the highest proportion of viral infections was in very young children. We propose deleting the sentence.
- Discussion section, p8, lines 194-195: we have replaced “less than 7 years old” with “less than 15 years old”, but we note that the VTEC strain was isolated from a child 7 years old and the Campylobacter strain was isolated from a child 2 years old.
Comment 2: As requested, we provide both frequency and % in the abstract section.
Comment 3: We have made this correction (p4, lines 80-81).
Comment 4: We have, as requested, harmonized data presentation where the information about the denominator is not mentioned in the sentence.
Comment 5: We agree with this comment and have removed the sex-ratio (p6, line 134)
Comment 6: This was a mistake on our part: the denominator was 223 and the number of patients who reported living in the studied area was 218. We have corrected this error (p6, line 136).

Reviewer 2: Ralf Krumkamp
Comment 1: Missing data were excluded from the denominator only for analyses of viral infections and co-infections with viruses. We thought that as the results of this study were mainly descriptive, we could analyse the results of each etiology independently (bacterial, viral and parasites). The
exclusion of 38 patients because of the absence of viral diagnosis would have led to potentially interesting data being lost.

Comment 2: As requested, we now provide a range (p6, line 134)

Comment 3: During medical visits to the health center, patients were asked to report symptom onset before attendance. We have modified the sentence, by replacing “before consultation” with “before visiting the health center” (p6, line 138)

Comment 4: We agree with the reviewer and have replaced “enteropathogen responsible for diarrhea” with “potential enteric pathogen” (p7, line 159)

Comment 5: We apologise for this error, and the correction has been made (p7, lines 157-158)

Comment 6: We thank the reviewer for this suggestion, which has been taken into account in the manuscript (p10, lines 229-230)

Comment 7: As requested, we have modified the presentation of age data in Table 1.

This revised version of the manuscript has been read by an English-speaking professional scientific editor.

We hope you find now the revised manuscript suitable for publication.

Yours sincerely,

Bissoume Sambe-Ba