Author's response to reviews

Title: Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of parents in rural China on the use of antibiotics in children: a cross-sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We thank the *BMC Infectious Diseases* for the acceptance of our paper entitled “Knowledge, attitudes and practices of parents in rural China on the use of antibiotics in children: a cross-sectional study.” We also give our sincere thanks to the reviewers for their very suggestive, helpful and detailed comments, and for their significant input of time. We have revised the manuscript in light of editor’ comments carefully with colored text (in red). Below is a point-by-point explanation of our revisions with respect to each comment.

Editorial Requirements:

Please include a copy of your questionnaire as an additional file.

**Response:** Thank you, we have uploaded the questionnaire as an additional file. The questionnaire is developed by researchers in the School of Public Health, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.

Editor's Comments:

Thank you for your revisions. The manuscript has improved substantially from the earlier version.

However, I have a few more suggestions for the authors' consideration:

1. Abstract

Results - last statement "This self-medicating behavior was significantly associated with living in rural villages, raising more than one child, having an older child..."

(a) "Having an older child" was not mentioned in the main paper, nor listed in Table 5. Was it missed out?

**Response:** Thank you. It was not missed out. The "having an old child" here means "The likelihood of parents self-medicating children with antibiotics increased with the age of the child". In order to be clearer to the readers, we rephrased it to “increasing age of child” in updated version.

(b) Suggest to replace the sentence with "Living in rural villages (Adj OR, 95%CI), raising more than one child (Adj OR, 95% CI), purchasing antibiotics without a prescription (Adj OR, 95%CI), storing antibiotics at home (Adj OR, 95%CI), and failing to adhere to physicians' advice (Adj OR, 95%CI) were independently associated with self-medicating behavior."

**Response:** Thank you for your suggestion. We have revised it.

2. Methods

P4-5

(a) Line 76 - Replace "County" with "County's"

(b) Line 79 - Replace "studied" with "study"

(c) Line 82 - Replace "county A (March 14-24, 2012)... county B (Mary 11-25, 2012)" with "county A, from March 14 through Mar 24, 2012, and in county B, from May 11
through May 25, 2012."
(d) Line 100 - Replace "given" with "giving"

Response: Thank you. We have revised them in updated version.

3. Results
P8-11
(a) Line 159 - Replace "... better awareness of antibiotic use (Table 2). " with "... better awareness of antibiotic use. Parents from central towns were significantly more likely than parents from villages to have answered correctly for 8 out of the 14 questions assessing the knowledge of antibiotics (Table 2)."

Response: Thank you for your suggestion. We have added the comparison between parents from central towns and villages on the knowledge of antibiotic use using percentage and the result of $\chi^2$ test in updated version.
(b) Line 162 - Replace "awareness" with "knowledge"

Response: Revised.
(c) Line 168 - Replace "preventative" with "prophylactic"

Response: Revised.
(d) In the Results section, there is no mention of the findings of "79% of parents thought that antibiotics could cure viral infections and that half of the parents thought that antibiotics could shorten the duration of URTI", although these 2 points were highlighted in the Abstract and also discussed in the Discussion section. Suggest that the authors also describe these 2 important points in the Results section, on P9.

Response: Thank you. Actually this two data was indicated in Table 2, the question 2 and question 5. However, it is showed by central towns and village separately. In order to be clearer for the readers, we added these two findings in the result section.
(e) Line 213-217 - Suggest to rephrase "... self-medication of children with antibiotics was significantly associated with living in villages..... having stored antibiotics at home (OR=2.7, 95%CI 1.96-3.975)." to "...living in villages (Adj OR, 95%CI), raising more than one child (Adj OR, 95% CI), having ever purchased antibiotics without a prescription (Adj OR, 95%CI), and having stored antibiotics at home (Adj OR, 95%CI), were significantly associated with self-medication of children with antibiotics."

Response: Revised.

4. Discussion
P16
(a) Line 316-318 - Replace "However, targeting parents of children undergoing routine vaccinations ... study subjects." with "Nonetheless, our findings are applicable to parents of children undergoing routine immunization."

Response: Revised.
(b) Line 323-326 - Replace "Parents' behavior of self-medicating children with antibiotics correlates with factors including... and habits of storing antibiotics at home," with "Poor adherence to physicians' advice, easy access to antibiotics, and habits of antibiotic storage at home, were associated with parental behavior of
antibiotic self-medication of children."

**Response:** Revised.

5. Conclusions

P17

(a) Line 342-343 - Rephrase “Discontinuing the use of leftover antibiotics ......” to "Completion of the full course of prescribed antibiotics and the discontinuation of use of leftover antibiotics...."

**Response:** Revised.

6. Tables

(a) Table 2 -
   i. Remove Column on "Correct response"
   ii. Include "No. (%)" under the columns "Central towns" and "Villages" (similar to Tables 1 & 4)

**Response:** Revised.

(b) Tables 3&5 -
For "College or above" - Replace "1" with "Reference"

**Response:** Revised.

(c) Table 4 -
   i. Title - Suggest to add “Parents” in front of 'Reasons' i.e. "Parents' reasons for ...."
   ii. Give a heading "Reasons" to the first column with the list of reasons
   iii. Number each of the reasons "1 to 5" (similar to Table 2)

**Response:** Revised.