Author's response to reviews

Title: Cholera outbreaks (2012) in three districts of Nepal reveal clonal transmission of multi-drug resistant Vibrio cholerae O1

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Version: 4
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Author's response to reviews: see over
To
Editor,
BMC Infectious disease

Subject: Second revision of the manuscript for publication

Dear Sir/M’rm,
Please find the second revision of the manuscript (MS) entitled “Cholera outbreaks (2012) in three districts of Nepal reveal clonal transmission of multi-drug resistant Vibrio cholerae O1” for your kind review and publication. We have revised the MS in light of the reviewer’s comments. Please see below, our responses to reviewers are intercalated.

May I therefore request you kindly to consider our MS for publication in your esteemed journal?

Sincerely yours,

Munirul Alam

Reviewer's report
Title: Cholera outbreaks (2012) in three districts of Nepal reveal clonal transmission of multi-drug resistant Vibrio cholerae O1

Version: 3 Date: 11 December 2013
Reviewer: Iza Ciglenecki

Reviewer's report:
The paper reads much better in this more condensed form, focusing on molecular biology of cholera in Nepal. I still have some minor comments:

1. Page 4, line 92: “although” seems to be displaced in the sentence?

   Our Answer: Corrected

2. Page 5, lines 119-122 were added from the previous version:
a. The only country where cholera vaccine is used at large scale is Vietnam, other published experiences are focused on particular groups, outbreak response, pilot interventions or studies – scale up is clearly needed for public health impact of these vaccines - please add references if you have additional information
b. I’m also not aware of efficacy of the vaccine being dependant on molecular
characteristics of V. cholera – can you add a reference here? Or alternatively, you could skip the 2 sentences around the vaccines, as they not necessary for the topic of the article and rather confusing

Our Answer: We have deleted this part to avoid confusion

3. Page 10, line 249: it is not clear how the 4 samples were randomly selected to represent the 3 districts? Random selection (how?) within each district?

Our Answer: We have rephrased the sentence to address this issue

4. Be consistent with abbreviations (or not) for the antibiotics – either they are abbreviated with their first time use and used as abbreviations thereafter, or alternatively don’t abbreviate and use full names throughout (lines 273, 325-7, etc)

Our Answer: We have made the changes as suggested

5. Discussion, lines 300-305 – the first part of paragraph is an introduction to the topic, it is repetition

Our Answer: We have deleted this part

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests