Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and risk factors of syphilis infection among drug addicts

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Author’s reply to reviewers’ comments

2nd Review

2nd reviewer’s report from Christina Marra

Reviewer’s comment:
1. “In the Discussion, the authors state that they could not demonstrate a protective effect of the participation in substitution programs on the syphilis serostatus. Please provide these data in the results section.

Author’s response:
1. In the first revision we already have responded to the reviewers comments as stated in our response to the reviewer: The corresponding figures have been provided in the result section at the end of the first paragraph on page 8 (middle of the page). We present whether there is a difference in duration of methadone treatment between those with and without positive serostatus for syphilis. From there we concluded that the duration of the methadone maintenance treatment has no protective effect, as assumed, on the rates of syphilis infection among drug addicts.

Reviewer’s comment:
2. Also, isn’t the following statement reversed? Don’t they mean “false negative”

Author’s response: Yes, the reviewer is right, it is a typo and has been changed to “false negative” (page 11, end of main paragraph)