Author's response to reviews

Title: Female genital schistosomiasis as an evidence of a neglected cause for reproductive ill-health: A retrospective histopathological study from Tanzania.

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Author's response to reviews:

Reviewer: Birgitte Jyding Vennervald

Abstract:
The text has been revised according to the proposal of the reviewer.

Background:
The text has been revised according to the proposal of the reviewer.

Methods:
Information of obtained ethical clearance included in the text.

Results:
The results section has been rephrased to clarify the relation between the total number of genital organ specimens examined (male and female patients) and the genital organ specimens examined from female patients.

Discussion:
The text has been revised according to the suggestions of the reviewer. The hypothesized pathomechanisms of genital schistosomiasis and STIs are now explained in more details.

Conclusion:
The conclusion has been rewritten. The limitations of the study have been included in the text.

Reviewer: U Petry

Major revisions
1. The results of the Tanzanian study have been included in the text.
2. The limitations of the study are included in the discussion. It is clearly indicated that conclusion on the prevalence of female genital schistosomiasis can not be drawn from the study results. Figure 1 has been deleted.
3. The proposed citation has been included in the text.

Minor revisions
1. The possible limitations of the results of Prabhakaran et al. are discussed.
2. The misspellings have been corrected.