Author's response to reviews

Title: Socio-demographic determinants of coinfections by HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses in central Italian prisoners

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

we are glad to send our revised version of the manuscript, and we are very grateful to reviewers for the useful comments. We followed all the suggestions and are sure that the manuscript has been much improved in this version.

We are sending a detailed (point by point) answer to reviewers, hoping this could serve as an explanation to our revised version.

Best wishes

Giuseppe La Torre

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Answer to Reviewers

Title: Socio-demographic determinants of coinfections by HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses in central Italian prisoners

Reviewer: Arijit Nandi

- We used the word "coinfection" in all the manuscript.
- In Results and in Tables we used only one decimal place
- We restructured the discussion section.
- Page 5 (Data collection); We inserted a full stop between the two sentences "...so a retrospective collection was realized The medical charts".
- We changed at Page 6 (Statistical analysis) "HIV/HB/HCV" with "HIV/HBV/HCV".
- We expected that all the readers interested in this article are familiar with tine test, so we did not add anything about this at Page 6 (Statistical analysis).
- We corrected the numbers and percentages at Page 7 (Results).
- We add a sentence at Page 8 (Results) concerning methadone.
- At Page 8 (Results); in section on HBV/HCV coinfection, we stated prevalence of coinfection before discussing characteristics of coinfected.
- At Page 10 (Discussion); the word "gaols" was replaced by "jails".
- At Page 11 (Discussion); we rephrased the sentence "HBV, HCV, and HIV sero-positivities in jails appears worrisome, even if paradoxically, HIV positive individuals find the opportunity to receive good treatment inside the prison environment".
- At Page 12 (Discussion); we changed "hypotesise" with "hypothesize"

Reviewer: Katharine Poundstone
- The paper was edited by a native English speaker
- in Background section we added a reference to this statement: "Most studies show that HIV infection leads to more aggressive hepatitis C..." (paragraph 1).
- We agree with the reviewer on the opportunity to expand the sentence "Coinfection can complicate treatment. People with liver damage due to chronic hepatitis are more likely to experience hepatotoxicity related to anti-HIV drugs".
- We condensed The Background section by deleting some sentence.
- In Methods section, we deleted the sentence "in which the importance of the problems concerning the research had been pointed out".
- we mentioned very early in the Methods section that all study participants were MALE.
- We reported already in the first draft of the manuscript detailed sociodemographic characteristics of the study population in Table 1.
- We added a sentence on the issue of polydrug use among the study population.
- In Discussion section we deleted the paragraph 4, beginning with "It is interesting..."). Moreover, we deleted the description of the paper by Shewan et al. and removed this paper from the list of references. Finally, we deleted the sentence: "In Italy HIV positivity of inmates, at their time of entry into prison, doesn't appear perceivably high, as verified in other environments"
- We explained what means for hygiene rules either general or specific.
- In the Discussion section we cited the WHO and UNODC/WHO/UNAIDS guidelines for prisons health and added the document to the reference list