Author's response to reviews

Title: HIV, HSV-2 ans syphilis among pregnant women in rural Tanzania: Prevalence and risk factors

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir/ Madam

Re: Review and resubmission of a revised manuscript MS: 1991897168153309 renamed as “HIV, HSV-2 and syphilis among pregnant women in rural Tanzania: Prevalence and risk factors"

We appreciate the positive comments by all reviewers and their intention to accept the manuscript for publication after minor corrections from two reviewers:

1. Khalil Ganem

We have changed the title of the manuscript as suggested and have stated as advised the paragraph in the sample size;

“Based on previous estimates of HIV, HSV-2 and syphilis prevalence in the area, HIV prevalence was the lowest, so the sample size was based on that estimate. A sample size of 1000 pregnant women would allow us to calculate a 2% prevalence of HIV with 95% confidence intervals of 1 to 3%. Point prevalence estimates of HIV, HSV-2 and syphilis are presented as the point estimate with their 95% confidence intervals.”

We also added the sentence on “Although sexual transmission of syphilis is usually limited to the early stages, vertical transmission is still possible in latency” in the discussion of syphilis”.

2. Jerome LeGoff

We have corrected the sentence on the prevalence of HSV-2 in Basotu to “The prevalence of HSV-2 was significantly higher in all clinics compared to Basotu clinic”.

The sentence explaining the possible reasons for the discrepancy of the observed prevalence has been removed.

We hope that the revisions are satisfactory

Sincerely

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