Author's response to reviews

Title: Homozygosity and Risk of Childhood Death due to Invasive Bacterial Disease

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Author's response to reviews:

Our responses to the (minimal) comments are below:

Reviewer's report

Title: Homozygosity and Risk of Childhood Death due to Invasive Bacterial Disease
Version: 4 Date: 30 April 2009
Reviewer: Jakob Mueller

Reviewer's report:
The authors effectively considered all my comments.

Minor comments:
1) The marker names in table 1 are different from the ones in the suppl. table.
   - these have been changed to make consistent
2) Please check the reference list again, e.g. reference 1 and 13.
   - four typographical errors have been found and corrected.
3) Please complete the legend within the figure 2.
   - the legend on the graphic has been removed and the information is now placed in the text legend.

Reviewer's report
Reviewer's report:

I thank the authors who have resolved my doubts about the statistical analysis related to Type I errors. However they do not give a convincing explanation of the use of its new heterozygosity index, SOH. This index does not solve any problems that are related to errors in genotyping. Moreover, as I said in my first review, SOH values vary with the panel of markers used, and this makes it more difficult to compare results between studies. So I do not understand their obstinacy to use SOH and suggest that they present analysis with other indices. Nevertheless I do not think that is a major problem to prevent the publication of this manuscript

- other methods cannot be calculated, as explained in a separate letter to the Editor, because the original data were not 'binned' with sufficient accuracy and have since been discarded. We accept that SOH is adequate rather than the most desirable method, but this is a minor part of our study, as recognized by both the Referee and Editor.