Author's response to reviews

Title: Adherence to antiretroviral therapy and associated factors among HIV infected children in Ethiopia: unannounced home-based pill count versus caregivers’ report

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Authors’ response to Reviewers’ comments

Adherence to antiretroviral therapy and associated factors among HIV infected children in Ethiopia: unannounced home-based pill count versus caregivers’ report

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Dear Editor,

We thank the reviewers for reviewing our manuscript critically once again. We have addressed the comments given by one of the reviewers. Besides, a point-by-point response to each comment has been provided (in blue) in this cover. One of your comments regarding table 1 and 3 is addressed in comment 6 below.

Comment 1. TAH - need to put this in brackets in line 40 before using the abbreviation
Response: corrected as suggested

Comment 2. Line 92 need to reference the statement "self or caregivers’ report, and the highest level of adherence (79.5-100%) emerged from such measurements" is it also from reference 18? If so you could put reference 18 after both statements
Response: it was from the same reference and it was cited as suggested

Comment 3. Line 222 extradoses should be extra doses
Response: corrected as suggested

Comment 4. Line 230 - "Similarly, children who did not know their HIV sero-status were more likely to adhere to their treatment [aOR=2.35 (95%CI: compared to those who knew their sero-status" Might this not be also related to age i.e younger children are less likely to know their status and medication is more likely to be administered by a guardian than by the child? Could this be stratified by age to tease this out as it is interesting to those practicing in the field.
Response: this has been already addressed in the logistic regression model by controlling the effect of age and we do believe that age was not a confounding variable for the association observed between HIV status disclosure and adherence

Comment 6. In Table 1 'HIV status disclosed' numbers are different to table 3 'Children who know their status' are the authors implying that these are different things? i.e. that the status was disclosed but the child is saying they do not know their status? If they are the same why are the numbers different.
Response: yes, these two figures are different. The figure in table represents disclosure to anyone whereas the figure in table 3 represents disclosure to children only.

Comment 7. Table 1 has no then yes response below, table 3 has yes then no responses - I would do the same in both tables in case the reader wishes to compare them
Response: this has been corrected in table 1