Author’s response to reviews

Title: Active Trachoma Two Years After Three Rounds of Azithromycin Mass Treatment in Cheha District, Gurage Zone, Southern Ethiopia

Authors:

Fisseha Admassu (drfisseha@yahoo.com)
Samson Bayu (samibayu@yahoo.com)
Abebe Bejiga (abbejiga@yahoo.com)
Bemnet Amare (amarebem6@gmail.com)

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Responses for the comments by Dr. Jonathan King

Thank you so much for your valuable comments. We appreciate and graciously accept your critical review and comments on this manuscript. Here are the responses for your comments

Major Comments
1. The comment is accepted and the word infection is now removed
2. The comment was accepted and statement was removed.
3. The comment is well taken. The table is changed accordingly
4. We calculated the odds ratio that was omitted in the previous document
5. Statement is now modified
6. Though we don’t have a baseline data in the district before the administration of azithromycin to compare with our findings, there was observable decline in the prevalence of active trachoma in the community since the implementation of the antibiotic mass treatment. We believe this is mainly due to the effect of mass treatment. Though there were some efforts to include the other components of the SAFE strategy in the intervention, they were not implemented in the district to the extent of significantly contributing for the reduction of active trachoma transmission. This is supported by the fact that the district had a very poor sanitary condition, low availability of latrine that was poorly utilized and poor water supply observed during the survey.

Minor comments
1. Comment accepted and the title is modified accordingly
2. Thank you for the suggestion. Statement modified accordingly
3. Comment accepted. The statement modified accordingly
4. We used the WHO “Trachoma control: A guide for program Mangers” manual as our reference
5. Statement modified accordingly
6. Comment accepted. Limitation of the study is now at the end of discussion
7. Comment accepted and modified accordingly
8. Comment accepted and the phrase “scary for use by children” is now removed