Author's response to reviews

Title: Estimation of hospital-based HIV seroprevalence as a nationwide scale by novel method; 2002-2008 in Korea

Authors:

Jin-Hee Lee (jhlee0745@gmail.com)
Kee-Jong Hong (khong@nih.go.kr)
Jin-Sook Wang (jswang@nih.go.kr)
Sung Soon Kim (sungskimkiss@empal.com)
Mee-Kyung Kee (keemk60@yahoo.co.kr)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover Letter

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We are very pleased to receive acceptance letter for publication of our manuscript from BMC Public Health.

We have revised manuscript following the reviewer’s comment and given responses as following point of reviewer’s comments on the next pages of this letter.
Reviewer’s report

Title: Estimation of the hospital-based HIV seroprevalence as a nationwide scale using a novel method: 2002-2008 in Korea

Version: 2 Date: 26 July 2010

Reviewer: Bernardo Galvao-Castro

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript and your comments. We have revised manuscript according to your comments and given answers after reviewer’s comments (in blue color).

Reviewer’s report:

Please find below my comments.

Having reviewed the new format of the manuscript I would recommend to the authors:

1) to insert the following phrase page 6, line 15, before the reference number (18): In short, the algorithm used for HIV laboratory diagnosis in South Korea comprises a screening test (ELISA, passive agglutination test and rapid test) and a confirmatory test (Western blot and PCR).

_response: We have inserted short description about the algorithm used for HIV laboratory diagnosis in South Korea, comprising a screening test and a confirmatory test on line 15-18 page 6.

2) to insert the following phrase in the discussion, page 12, line 14: We are aware that there could be some bias in the prevalence estimated in the present study. Indeed, previous studies have identified potential biases in assessing the general population HIV prevalence from samples of selected groups such as prenatal clinic users, blood donors and hospital-based studies. (Dourado I e tal.. HIV-1 seroprevalence in the General Population of Salvador, Bahia State, Northeast Brazil.. Cadernos de Saúde Pública (FIOCRUZ), v. 23, p. 25-32, 2007; Changalucha J et al. Comparison of HIV prevalences in community-based and antenatal clinic survey in rural Mwanza, Tanzania. AIDS 2002;16:661-5).

_response: We have inserted the following sentence “We are aware that there...
could be some bias in the prevalence estimated in the present study. Indeed, previous studies have identified potential biases in assessing the general population HIV prevalence from samples of selected groups such as prenatal clinic users, blood donors and hospital-based studies.” on lines 14-18 page 12. Also we are added reference 30-31 on lines 5-8 page 18.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'