Author's response to reviews

Title: Tuberculosis lymphadenitis in Southwest Ethiopia: a community based cross-sectional study

Authors:

Gemeda Abebe (gemeda.abebe@ju.edu.et)
Amare Deribew (amare_deribew@yahoo.com)
Ludwig Apers (lapers@itg.be)
Alemseged Abdissa (alemseged.abdissa@ju.edu.et)
Fetene Deribie (fetene2002@yahoo.com)
Kifle Woldemichael (bethy_kifle@yahoo.com)
Jaffer Shiffa (jaffershiffa@yahoo.com)
Markos Tesfaye (tesmarkos@yahoo.com)
Chali Jira (chali_jira_b@yahoo.com)
Mesele Bezabih (mesele_bezabih@yahoo.com)
Abraham Aseffa (aseffa@gmail.com)
Alemayehu Bekele (alemayehu.bekele@ju.edu.et)
Robert Colebunders (bcoleb@itg.be)

Version: 3 Date: 18 June 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
To: BMC Public Health

Subject: Re-submission of an article

Dear Editors,

We hereby re-submit our article titled “Tuberculosis lymphadenitis in Southwest Ethiopia: a community based cross-sectional study” after accommodating the comments of the reviewers line by line. We have attached the line by line responses to the comments by reviewers in the following pages.

With kind regards,

Gemeda Abebe, MSc, Assistant Professor

Corresponding author
Reviewer: Solomon A Yimer
Reviewer's report:
The authors have very well addressed my queries and comments.
Minor essential revisions
  Comment 1. Table 3 – please close the bracket for the proportion of the group “no (negatives)” corresponding to the variable “contact with cattle”.
  Response: Accepted
  Comment 2. Table 4- Please correct the decimal place for the proportion of the group “>12 weeks” duration.
  Response: Decimal place is now corrected as 12.8
Reviewer: Subhash Chandir
Reviewer's report:
Minor Essential Revisions
Comment: The response to comments 3 & 4 (under Major Compulsory Revisions sent previously) should be incorporated in manuscript. Excluding a data subset does not eliminate bias, authors should mention their actions in manuscript and let readers decide if there was a bias and whether or not it could have affected results.
Please add a line or 2 on consent procedures as you explained in your response.
Response: It is true that exclusion of a data cannot eliminate bias. However, the option that we had was to exclude the data from analysis. Concerning the consent procedure we now indicate in the text under ethical consideration section that “First the head of the house gave consent. Subsequently depending on the information from the head of the house all the suspects gave consent before administering the questionnaire and undergoing FNA”.
Discretionary Revisions
Comment 1. Line 43 and elsewhere, please remove '=' sign after OR. In addition double brackets can be avoided by using ',' in between OR and CI e.g. (OR 5.58, 95% CI 1.23-25.43).
Response: The comment is accepted and corrections are made in the text.
Comment 2. All tables: Numbers are better understood if they are right aligned instead of left.
Response: The comment is accepted and corrections are made in the text.
Comment 3. In table 3: Under monthly income, please also mention name of local currency.
Response: Now we indicate the name of local currency “birr” in the table.