Author's response to reviews

Title: HIV associated hypocalcaemia among diarrheic patients in northwest Ethiopia: A cross sectional study

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Version: 4 Date: 29 April 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Reviewers

To: Editorial Manager to BMC Public Health

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MS ID: 8785055511179759

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Point by point Response to Reviewers 1

1. Sampling- the study included hypothesis testing and inference which require the utilization of adequate sample sizes that is confirmed by undertaking sample size calculation to know the minimum representative sample. The researchers, however, are not obliged to stick to that number so long as they keep the minimum. In this case, you would have addressed this way or use a sample that has been repeatedly used by other studies. If study dependent on “a mother study sample”, make sure this is adequate for your objectives.

As you have indicated, the sample has been used by us for other studies which are published elsewhere; therefore, we believed that the sample size is adequate for this kind of studies.

2. Analysis- the type of infectious pathogen Vs hypocalcaemia association seems indirect one as could be verified from the absence of statistical significance. It is not presence of the bacteria or parasites BUT diarrhea that results in hypocalcaemia. It would give more sense to eliminate that segment of tabulation and work on presence of diarrhea.

Thank you for pointing that out, the most common cause of diarrhea in Ethiopia is due to pathogenic microorganisms; moreover, some of the pathogens are difficult to diagnosis using district laboratory capacity which makes it difficult to rule out diarrhea due to infectious pathogens. For this reason, we gave much emphasis to discuss the relationship of hypocalcemia and diarrhea regardless of its causative agents.