Author’s response to reviews

Title: Correlation of respiratory symptoms and spirometric lung patterns in a rural community setting, Sindh, Pakistan: a cross sectional survey

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Response to reviewers’ comments

Major compulsory revisions:

1. In respect of the new analysis of validity of the questions, unless I have missed this, you do not state what spirometric outcome is used, that is whether obstructive, restrictive or both. This does need to be made clear (in abstract, methods, results, table), and I suggest that these two outcomes should not be combined.

Response: separate analysis was done for obstructive and restrictive spirometric outcomes as shown in table 5 and table 6

In analysis section last paragraph, sentence was re-phrased as (highlighted in text):

Validity of the ATS respiratory questionnaire along with predictive values were also calculated for obstructive and restrictive lung patterns separately.

In results section last paragraph, sentence was rephrased as follows (highlighted in text):

The negative predictive values and specificity of all the symptoms were generally higher with respect to obstructive and restrictive lung patterns compared to positive predictive values and sensitivity respectively (table 5 and 6).

Minor essential revisions

2. Abstract/Results line 1: study 'sample' would be more appropriate than 'population'.

Response: Revised as suggested

3. Table 4: now that the p-values are included, the ** symbols for significance are not needed.

Response: Revised as suggested