Author's response to reviews

Title: Pattern of Respiratory Diseases in Children Presenting to the Pediatric Emergency Unit of the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu: A Case Series Report

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Author's response to reviews:

Reviewer's Comments Response Page
1 Methods of socioeconomic assessment Done Page 5. Line 10, 11
2 Yearly frequency of hospitalization Added to discussion 1st paragraph Page 8, Line 7 to 8
3 Inconsistencies in methodology Methods/Data analysis revised Page 5; Line 12 to 23
4 The use of <0.003 Been revised Page 7, line 3
5 The scale in figure 1 Has been corrected Page 25
6 Typing errors in line 6 page 7 Corrected Page 7,
7 Effect of socioeconomic status and hospitalization Partly addressed in the discussion Page 10, Lines 11 and 12; page 11 Lines 1 and 2
8 The proportion of children less than 5 years with repeated hospitalization Revised. Page 7, Line 16 to 18
9 References for the burden of pneumonia and the prevalence of asthma Have been reviewed Page 9, Line 1
10 Tables and graphs (scales and proportions) Corrected Page 24 and Page 25
11 Table 1 discussion Done Page 8, Line 25
12 Use of descriptive statistics for Table 5 Corrected Page 8, 7 to 11
13 Small lapses (SD in abstract, use of median) Corrected with the appropriate text as described in data analysis Page 2, line 6, Page 2 Line 14, Line 20
14 Reference style Reviewed Page 18

Reviewer 1 Comments

Reviewer 2 Comments
s/n Reviewer’s Comment Response/ Correction Location in manuscript
1 ‘carders’ should read cadre Effected Methods: Paragraph 1:
2 ‘Inclusion criteria on the clinician’s diagnoses of the respective
disease based on clinical features and available laboratory results’ Meaning
unclear; sentence needs recasting Sentence corrected by adding the missing
words Methods: Paragraph 2
3 What informed the choice of length of hospitals stay to < 5 days
and >5 days? The period of antibiotic use Methods: Paragraph 3
4 Where was ANOVA used in the analysis? Anova has been expunged from text.
Methods: Paragraph 4
5 Duration of admission (length of hospital stay) was earlier categorized as <5
days and > 5days. How were the results in this paragraph e.g mean duration of
admission of 2 days and no of children admitted for more than 4 days computed?
It was median duration not mean. Computation was done by simple descriptive
statistics on SPSS. 12.7% of the children were admitted for more than 4 days ie
#5 days Results
6 Unspecified socio economic group formed one third (29.4%) of the records.
With
such a large group of unknown income, how then was socio-economic factor
found to be a determinant of repeated admissions? We believe that the number
available was still large enough and the statistical analysis (regression) showed
that it was significant despite the unknown group.
7 What test statistic has been reported as ‘B= 1.22 and -1.68? B standardized
coefficient from regression analysis.
8 Admission outcome What was the final outcome of the children ‘transferred into
inpatient wards’ That was not included in the study as most of the cases are
managed in the Emergency room till discharge or death.
9 ‘Asthma and acute chest syndrome of sickle cell disease constiute
the topmost reasons for admission in our review’ How does this statement
compare with results presented in Table 2? Statement was an error and has
been expunged and correct statement added. Other relevant discussions on
foreign body inhalation were added. Discussion: Paragraph 3
10 ‘The proportion though small’ what does this refer to? Note that
proportion of children with kerosene poisoning was 3.5% of non communicable
as compared to Acute chest syndrome (1.8%) in the same group Sentence
rephrased and kerosene poisoning has been taken into due consideration.
Paragraph 4
11 ‘…despite the best efforts’ not clear. Explain Conclusion
12 ‘It thus requires more effort among all concerned to reduce and should be
directed at improvement in the intervention methods or more commitment by the
stakeholders in implementation of the existing methods’ This sentence is not
clear and does not have any link with either the study objective, methodology nor
results Sentence has been restructured
Added as a recommendation
13 Table 4: This needs to have some statistical test applied to determine the
significance or
otherwise of the results. Statistical test of sig, has been added. Tables
14 Table 5: Title not appropriate for data presented We feel is appropriate as it
depicts the outcome of the most common cases admitted. We are open to your
appropriate suggestions
15 Figure 1: Does not add further information than already depicted in table 4
and the prose
and should be deleted. We believe that Fig 1 will clearly show the variation in
pattern by month while Table 1 depicts the yearly trend.