Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical and histological characterization of oral pemphigus lesions in patients with skin diseases: a cross sectional study from Sudan

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Authors’ responses to editor

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Authors' responses to editor: see over
Dear BioMed Central Editorial Team

Thank you for the review of our manuscript, (Clinical and histological characterization of oral pemphigus lesions in patients with skin diseases: a cross sectional study from Sudan). The manuscript has been revised and edited according to the suggestions from reviewers.

Please find attached;

- Authors' responses to editor
- Version (5) manuscript.

Sincerely yours,
On behalf of the authors,
Nada M Suliman
Authors' responses to editor

1. The medical conditions assessed included: heart disease and hypertension. Are these different entities?

Authors' response: Hypertension is one of the risk factors for developing heart disease. It was asked separately because it is a common and known disease in Sudan and the term was familiar for the layperson. Rheumatic heart disease, Coronary heart disease and other were grouped together under heart disease.

2. The PV was assessed clinically (on the skin and oral cavity) and histologically, however, it is not mentioned whether there was any reliability test done within the examiners and what were the results.

Authors' response: There was one examiner who performed the clinical examinations of the oral PV. The examiner trained in diagnosis of oral mucosal lesions before the data collection (The Gade Laboratory for Pathology, and Department of Clinical Dentistry-Section for Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine, University of Bergen, Norway). However, intra-examiner reliability (test-retest reliability) was not assessed before data collection because PV is a rare disease and was not recorded during the training period. In addition, the inconsistency in the clinical picture of the oral mucosal lesions which may differ from early stage to late stage makes this test difficult. The histopathology and the immunohistochemistry test were confirmed by Professor Anne C Johannessen (Professor in Oral Pathology) (page 8).

3. The study lacks specifications of the manufacturers and countries of manufacture of the equipment and reagents used in the study methods.

Authors’ response: This has been corrected (page 9 &10)
4. The language needs editing.

Authors’ response:

Language has been edited