Author’s response to reviews

Title: Risk factors for non-cure among new sputum smear positive tuberculosis patients treated in tuberculosis dispensaries in Yunnan, China

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors for non-cure among new sputum smear positive tuberculosis patients treated in tuberculosis dispensaries in Yunnan, China

Version: 2 Date: 13 January 2011

Reviewer: Syed Tariq

Reviewer's report:
The authors highlighted that a significant minority were not aware of the need to go to local CDC for follow-up etc. Were these patients also more likely to miss their DOT doses?

Thank you for this question. Indeed these patients were more likely to have missed at least one dose. They were not more likely not to have a DOT observer (26.2% vs. 29.7%, data not shown). We have included two sentences on this in the results section.

I gather that in Table 1 the p value of 0.01 given for DOT compares any form of DOT vs no DOT. If so, it should be clarified by a footnote at the bottom of the table.

The reference group is the group of patients who have a health care worker as DOT observer, so we compare this group to the other groups. This should be clear from the descriptions used.

In Table 2 there is a discrepancy between the total number of patients given at the (N = 813) and the figure given as footnote (818). This needs to be corrected. We corrected the 818 in the footnote to 813.

Please make a few minor changes as listed below:
Page 7: Change 'Seventh-one percent' to 'Seventy-one percent' Done

Page 7, last sentence: Change 'less often had an unsuccessful' to 'had a more successful' We have consistently listed the risk factors for non-cure. We did adjust the sentence to make it better readable.

Page 8, last para, line 3: Change 'not being cured' to 'non-cure' Done

Page 9, 2nd para, line 2: Change 'treatment observation' to 'lack of treatment observation' Done

Page 9, para 2, line 5: Remove the word 'If' at the start of the sentence This would change what we wanted to say. We adjusted the sentence to clarify its meaning.

Page 10, last para, line 4: Change 'compliance to treatment' to 'compliance with treatment' Done
Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors for non-cure among new sputum smear positive tuberculosis patients treated in tuberculosis dispensaries in Yunnan, China
Version: 2 Date: 17 February 2011
Reviewer: Andrew Wilson
Reviewer's report:
The revised version answers my questions and is improved.