Author’s response to reviews

Title: Impact of the Introduction of Ultrasound Services in a limited resource setting: Rural Rwanda 2008.

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Version: 2 Date: 3 February 2009

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Editorial Staff

In response to requested revisions, I have made several changes to my manuscript:

MS: 2012184157229694
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An outline of these changes is provided here:

1) The authors qualifications (e.g. “MD”) have been removed from the title page and all authors email addresses have been added.
2) The abstract has been shortened to under 350 words; it is now 347 words
3) Referee 1: Thank you for your comments and support.
4) Referee 2: Thank you for your comments.
   a. I have removed the parenthetical statement from Page 8, line 13 and changed the sentence.
   b. I agree with you that sensitivity/specificity was not quite the right terminology to be used, and have changed it throughout the document to be concordance rate.
5) Referee 3: Thank you for your comments and detailed list of suggestions for improvement.
   a. In the methods, I included that the images were sent to the American ultrasound physician by “hard drive” for quality review. I also added in the “sustainability” section, that currently we are using a system of emailed digital images for real time quality assurance and help with interpretation for our Rwandese colleagues.
   b. I did not update the description of the data sheets, as they really don’t contain any other information than what is listed, but I would be happy to provide a copy of one if you would like to see it.
   c. I added the types of transducers used to the methods section
   d. I updated the literature review section of the discussion, and included an article just published in Dec 2008 in Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine.
   e. I changed the results section to add examples of how the ultrasound changed patient management regarding decisions for surgical procedures.
   f. I changed the discussion section to include the names of authors in the discussion of their papers as you suggested.
   g. I changed the references to all numerical numbering so it is consistent between the text of the paper and the reference section.
   h. There is no figure 3 for the paper - I am not sure why it was uploaded that way. There should be 2 figures and 1 table.
i. I changed the wording of the sentences on page 6 and 7 to improve them as suggested
j. I changed the sentence on page 8 from “Rarely, the ultrasound was used to assist in obtaining....” To “In two cases, the ultrasound was used to assist in obtaining.....IV access”

Thank you very much for your timely review and I look forward to your continued interest in the manuscript. Please let me know if there are any other changes or concerns prior to publication.

Sincerely,

Sachita Shah