Author's response to reviews

Title: Efficacy of single dose Gentamicin in combination with Metronidazole versus multiple doses for prevention of post caesarean infection

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

Title: Efficacy of single dose Gentamicin in combination with Metronidazole versus multiple doses for prevention of post caesarean infection

Reviewer's report:

In their response to my comments, the authors acknowledge that the previous sample size formula used was problematic. They have now provided an alternative formula, stating that it has led to a substantially increased sample size. The source for this formula is given as reference (32). However in checking reference (32) I am unable to find the formula quoted.

In my view, the credibility of the authors' approach to estimating the required size of their trial simply lacks credibility.

Our Response:

We apologize for the inconvenience experienced by reviewer, as we forgot to put the right reference. This formula is available in a different text book.

In view of this, we have opted to use another formula, which can be easily accessed through google scholar { Blackwelder (Controlled Clinical Trials) 1982; 3: 345-353} or if he finds problem getting this, he can access this formula through this website: http://people.ucalgary.ca/~patten/blackwelder.html

$$(Z_{0.95} + Z_{0.80})^2 [Ps(1-Ps) + Pn(1-Pn)] / (Ps-Pn-D)^2$$

We believe reviewer will be comfortable with Blackwelder as he had also mention him in his article (APPROACHES TO SAMPLE SIZE ESTIMATION IN THE DESIGN OF CLINICAL TRIALS-A REVIEW. STATISTICS IN MEDICINE, VOL. 3, 199-214 (1984)).

Yours truly,

Massinde Anthony

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