Author's response to reviews

Title: Team approach concept in Management of Oro-facial Clefts: a survey of Nigerian practitioners.

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The comment of the reviewers were noted with thanks. The Pan African Cleft Congress provided us a better setting where Nigerian practitioners could be surveyed. The conference held in Nigeria with practitioners from all the geopolitical zones in attendance. Hitherto, cleft management is carried out by surgeons mostly on individual basis without interdisciplinary care. Since there was no official information on existence of cleft teams in our country prior to the inauguration of Pan African Congress on Oro facial Cleft in 2006, It became imperative for us to do the survey in order to assess the compliance of Nigerian practitioners to interdisciplinary care. All Nigerian participants at the conference were surveyed and only sixty three response was obtained from seventy two people.

We appreciate the comments of Peter Damiano who also identified the fact that such pioneer surveys usually have limitations.

We hereby make a final appeal for the acceptance of the manuscript as it would make an interesting reading for researchers especially in developing and underdeveloped countries.