Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and associated risk factors of anemia among HIV infected children attending Gondar University Hospital, Northwest Ethiopia: A cross sectional Study

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Date: 1 July 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
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Version 3: Date: July 1, 2015

Author’s Response to Reviews: See over
Dear BMC Hematology editorials,

The authors gave special thanks for the reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestions which helps to our manuscript entitled “Prevalence and associated risk factors of anemia among HIV infected children attending Gondar University Hospital, Northwest Ethiopia: A cross sectional Study” to be valuable and scientifically sound. We the authors tried to correct and include all the comments given by each reviewer point-by-point. For the convenience purpose, we attached/uploaded the point-by-point reply to each reviewers and the revised manuscript.

With regards
Authors’ response to reviewer Lealem Bimerew

Title: Prevalence and associated risk factors of anemia among HIV infected children attending Gondar University Hospital, Northwest Ethiopia: A cross sectional Study

Version: 2 Date: 11 February 2015
Reviewer: Lealem Bimerew
Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. My comments and feedback are below, in order of the text that they refer to in the manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Method section, the laboratory investigation line no 102-104, you did stool examination by using direct wet mount only which is less sensitive to detect ova of parasites. Needs justification???
   - The Authors thank the reviewer Lealem Bimerew for the suggestions and we mentioned this as a limitation of this study.

2. If one of your target was to assess risk factors for anemia why did not you screen those children for Hemoparasites particularly Malaria and nutritional status of children.
   - The study subjects were assessed by history and physical examination for hemoparasites and for those suspected for hemoparasites, blood film was examined. And 1 study subject was positive for malaria parasite.

3. On statistical analysis (line no 105-109): You analysed your data using SPSS v-20. If so why did you use chi-square to identify the associated factors?? Chi-square does not tell you the specific associated factor for anemia. I prefer if you did logistic regression analysis to see the association as far as you have the data in the software.
   - The authors appreciate the reviewers comment and done as per the comment

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract

4. Define anemia in the methods
   - Done as per the reviewers comment
Introduction

5. Please clearly show the gap for the need of this study?
   - Done as per the reviewers comment

Materials and Methods

6. Ethical issue: What did you do for those anemic children since it is ethical issue? Need to be more details about the sampling would be helpful, including the number of Children involved in the study.
   - This issue is very important. The results were reported to the physician for management.
     Sampling method and number of children involved are included as per the comment.

7. There are variables mentioned in the table such as haematuria and loss of appetite? How did you assess it? You need to explain it in your method section.
   - It was assessed by clinical assessments and interviewing the parents/guardians.

Discussion section:

8. Some justifications needs clarification? For example line 152: one of the reason given for the variation is ethnic city? How this creates variation especially between children living in Jimma, Ethiopia and those children living in Gondar, Ethiopia???
   - Thanks for the comment and this reasons were for other studies conducted in India, South Africa (Cape Town), Uganda, Tanzania and Brazil. But for Jimma it is not applicable.

9. You should compare your finding with other studies? Some lacks justification. For example paragraph 3 and paragraph 4.
   - Done as per the reviewers comment.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests
Authors’ response to Reviewer Ruth Williams-Hooker

Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and associated risk factors of anemia among HIV infected children attending Gondar University Hospital, Northwest Ethiopia: A cross sectional Study

Version: 2 Date: 9 April 2015

Reviewer: Ruth Williams-Hooker

Reviewer's report:

Here is the scan of my review. Here are some comments.

I think the information provided in this paper is good information and useful to the community at large. However, there are numerous grammatical errors, which I have tried to correct in my scan.

- Thank you very much reviewer Ruth Williams-Hooker for the correction of grammatical errors and the authors correct them as per the comment.

In the Introduction, the authors discuss the prevalence of anemia in the world and in East Africa. The prevalence is given from 15-93%. Could it be narrowed down to Ethiopia so that you can compare the general population to the HIV population. Also could you clarify in the introduction, when you are talking about HIV adults vs children or both.

- Done as per the reviewer’s comment and the following statement is included in the introduction

- “According to the 2011 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey more than four in ten children (44%) are anemic. One child of every five (21%) has mild anemia, another 20% have moderate anemia, and 3% have severe anemia in the country. But there is limited information about prevalence of anemia among HIV infected children.”

Use the term pediatric or children consistently.

- Done as per the reviewer’s comment and we the authors prefer to use children

Make references consistently formatted

- Done as per the reviewer’s comment
The biggest issue to me is the methods say data was collected Oct 2012-May 2013. The tables all say Feb 2013-May 2013.

- Thank you for the comment. The data was collected from Feb 2013 – May 2013. But From October 2012 – May 3013 was the time when the proposal was developed. Thus it is corrected as Feb 2013 – May 2013.

I also think there needs to be a table of the total percent with anemia or state that in figure 1.

- Done as per the reviewer’s comment and it is stated under the result section as follows:
  “Regarding the type of anemia, about 46.5% of anemic children had normocytic-normochromic anemia followed by macrocytic-normochromic anemia (39.5%) (Figure 1).”