Author’s response to reviews

Title: Significantly elevated foetal haemoglobin levels in individuals with Glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase disease and/or sickle cell trait: a cross-sectional study in Cape Coast, Ghana

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POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSE TO EDITOR’S COMMENTS

1. The authors mention that they selected 100 participants, however, it was not clear how these 100 individuals were selected. Was the selection random? or did they select 100 consecutive patients reporting to outpatient clinics?

RESPONSE: Line 96 -98, Methods, pages 2 – 3 (The rationale for the study was explained to all clients attending the OPD unit of the hospital during the period of the research. Only clients who gave written informed consent were consecutively recruited for the study.)

2. The following sentence in the Abstract section should be edited for clarity: "%Hb F levels were 47 significantly elevated in males with SCT only (p<0.05), G6PD enzymopathy only 48 (p<0.0001), or SCT + G6PD enzymopathy (p<0.0001) compared to those with none of these 49 pathologies even though the haemoglobin levels were comparable."
RESPONSE: Line 41 – 44, abstract, page ii (%Hb F levels were significantly elevated in males with SCT only (p<0.05), or G6PD enzymopathy only (p<0.0001), or SCT + G6PD enzymopathy (p<0.0001) compared to males with none of these pathologies even though their respective haemoglobin levels were comparable.)

3. The Conclusion in the Abstract section does not reflect the findings from the study and should be edited.

RESPONSE: Line 49 – 50, Abstract page ii (The inheritance of G6PD defect and/or SCT significantly elevate %Hb F levels in the steady state even though haemoglobin levels are not affected.)

4. List of abbreviations

RESPONSE: Line 257 – 260, manuscript page 10 (SCT: Sickle cell trait; G6PD: Glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase; G6PD FD: G6PD full defect; G6PD PD: G6PD partial defect; G6PD ND: G6PD no defect; Hb: haemoglobin; Hb F: foetal haemoglobin; EDTA: Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; ROS: reactive oxygen species.)