Author’s response to reviews

Title: Vitamin D and tuberculosis: a multicenter study in children.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Reply to the reviewer’s comments.

Reviewer: Alan Bates

Line 28 change ‘ethnical’ to ‘ethnic’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

“ 89 change ‘Secondary’ to ‘A secondary’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

“ 139 change ‘ad’ to ‘as’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

“ 157 change ‘other 8’ to ‘8 other’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

“ 165 change ‘resulted to have’ to ‘had’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

“ 242 change ‘centre’ to ‘centres’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

“ 243 change ‘two-third’ to ‘two-thirds’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

“ 246 change ‘ethnical background’ to ‘ethnicity’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

“ 277 change ‘hormone,’ to ‘hormone and’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

“ 408 change ‘122:3 98’ to ‘122: 398’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

“ 432 change ‘Nut’ to ‘Nutr’

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Line 196 the phrase ‘ethnicity at risk of hypovitaminosis D’ does not make sense

The sentence has been modified, in order to make it clear.

Discretionary revisions
While the paper is on the whole concise and unambiguously written, there are some infelicities of grammar and style. I have confined myself to correcting the most noticeable of these, but the authors may wish to have the whole paper checked by a native English speaker to improve its readability.

The paper has been revised by a native English speaker.

Review: Nicholas Midzi

Comments on the Abstract:

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

Line 27 should read as follows: The aim of this study was…

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Line 30, please start with capital letter A after the subheading, Method: and also recast you sentence as follows: A multi Centre study was conducted…

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Sentence in line Line 37 should be recast.

Results: The study population included 996 children screened for TB and also tested for vitamin D.

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Comments on the Materials and methods:

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

The sentence in line 85-87 needs to be rephrased or completed.

The sentence has been rephrased.

Line 134, remove “a” from …was a not…

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Comments on the Results section:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

Table 1 is referred to in line 149 but it does not existent in the manuscript.

Table 1 has been added to the manuscript.

Table 2 is referred in line 163 but it does not exist in the manuscript.
Table 2 has been added to the manuscript.

Sentence in line 164 that starts with “About half…” should be rephrased.

The sentence has been rephrased.

Line 168, insert an to the word “case” to make it plural

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Line 171, add “cases” after Latent TB… Do the same for the whole sentences where expected.

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Line 178 should read “All the variables and not all the variable…”

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

The sentence that begin in line 184 replace “….has been reported…” by “is described in table 3” and please insert Table 3 in the manuscript.

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested. Table 3 has been added to the manuscript.

Line 203 should read “…according to…”

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Comments on Discussion section

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

Line 221, correct “Our aim was to… and is to”

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Line 243-253 you seem to be reporting results rather than discussing results. You Start your sentence by “The observed difference in …. Was due to…” So please rephrase the sentence.

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Line, 254 “… with respect to…” should read as “…compared to…”

The sentence has been rephrased, as suggested.

Line 243 - 268, largely shows that Vitamin D deficient was due to ethnicity that TB. You therefore need to be cautious in attributing Vitamin D to TB infection.
Our data show a significant correlation between vitamin D and tuberculosis also in the multivariate analysis, where possible confounding factors were excluded. Although we know that hypovitaminosis D is more frequent in black people, the ethnicity was not the only factor predisposing to vitamin D deficiency in our study population.

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

The paper has been revised by a native English speaker.