Author's response to reviews

Title: Bacteriological methods as add on tests to FNA cytology in diagnosis of tuberculous lymphadenitis: Can they reduce the diagnostic dilemma?

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To: BMC Infectious Diseases

Subject: Re-submission of Original Article

Dear Editors,

We, Ketema Abdissa, Mulualem Tadesse, Mesele Bezabih, Alemayhu Bekele, Ludwig Apers, Leen Rigouts and Gemeda Abebe, hereby re-submit our original article titled ‘Bacteriological methods as add on tests to FNA cytology in diagnosis of tuberculous lymphadenitis: Can they reduce the diagnostic dilemma?’ to BMC Infectious Diseases for possible publication. We have attached the line by line responses to the comments by reviewers in the following pages.

Regards,

Gemeda Abebe (PhD), Associate Professor.

Corresponding author.
We appreciate the reviewers for their constructive comments which we have used to improve the quality of the paper. We have accommodated the comments line by line.

**Comment 1.** Numerous grammatical errors still remain throughout the text and will need professional correcting prior to consideration of publication. E.g lines 6 and 17 even within the abstract are in need of correction. The abstract comment about NTM and lack of BCG is not contributing to the article and needs to be removed.

**Response:** We now removed from the abstract line 6 and 17 and corrected grammatical errors.

**Comment 2.** The conclusion in the abstract needs to mention the setting in an endemic region as the sensitivity and specificity of an FNA will vary dependent on this.

**Response:** We now indicate in the conclusion section of the abstract “Combining bacteriological methods with FNA cytology in an endemic region like Ethiopia improves the overall accuracy of the diagnosis of mycobacterial lymphadenitis and patient management”.

**Comment 3.** There needs to be a clarification of what was accepted as indicative of TB cytologically as this does not seem to have been defined and would make the methodology transparent.

**Response:** In the methods section we now indicate that “TB lymphadenitis diagnosis by cytology was made by observation of the presence of epitheloid cell granulomas and caseous necrosis with or without Langhan’s giant cells [10, 11].”