Author's response to reviews

Title: Home-based HIV testing for men preferred over clinic-based testing by pregnant women and their male partners, a nested cross-sectional study

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Response to Reviewer’s report
Reviewer 1
Although the male partners in polygamous relationship participants represent low percentage, it would be more interesting to bring deeper discussion on their HTC preference, as I believe this would help design recommendation on a proper male partner HTC approach in Sub-Saharan African countries where polygamy is a reality.

We appreciate highlighting of concurrent sexual partnerships especially in a polygamous setting. Our study was not powered to evaluate the role of polygamy but we have added the discussion on this and other concurrent and multiple partnerships too.

It would have been helpful if it was brought to discussion the timeframe/how long the either male partner HTC model has been introduced. It would be possible that the most popular model/ or implemented for longer time model could be the most preferred by participants. In most if not all Sub-Saharan Africa the longest HIV testing model for individuals has been VCT. Couple testing during pregnancy at the antenatal clinic was introduced later and is the current recommended model of testing. Home based testing was only introduced as an intervention. As our results show the findings are different from what the reviewer suggests, as majority prefer home based testing.

Which among the three-presented HTC models was the first to be introduced? As per our response above the order was VCT followed by clinic testing. Home based is the latest intervention.

How this could have been influenced the study findings? We don’t think this influenced the study findings in any way.

Does cultural believes interfere in HTC interference? It is unfortunate that this has not been discussed, if it were, it would be more interesting

We agree, this would have been a good discussion point. However, the cultural beliefs are better elucidated in a qualitative design, which we are conducting and report findings soon.

Reviewer 2
(1) Cut Figure One from the manuscript as it is of limited value here
We have revised it to show study flow without study arm as per the strobe guidelines. We understand showing it by study arm was of no use to this paper.
(2) Results; Correlates of preferred settings for male partner testing
Please edit this down and pick out the most salient associations - the remainder of the data are easily viewable in Table 3, and do NOT need to be stated in the text. I would suggest cutting all after line 9 of the paragraph

We have revised this section and cut the recommended part of the paragraph.