Author’s response to reviews

Title: Performance of Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification assay in the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis in a high prevalence TB/HIV rural setting in Uganda

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Author’s response to reviews:

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The Editor,
BMC Infectious Diseases

Dear Sir/Madam,

INFD-D-17-01139R1: Performance of Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification assay in the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis in a high prevalence TB/HIV rural setting in Uganda

On behalf of the co-authors, I wish to thank you and the academic editor for allowing re-revision and resubmission of this manuscript. We thank the reviewers for their comments and suggestions on how to improve this manuscript. We have carefully considered the comments and have revised the manuscript to address their concerns. This process has strengthened the manuscript, and we look forward to your team’s further consideration of our work for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.
Kindly find a point by point response to each of the reviewers’ comments highlighted blue and the revised manuscript. We believe that we have submitted a better version following revision.

I will be happy to answer promptly any issues concerning this revision.

Sincerely,

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POINT BY POINT RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS COMMENTS

Reviewer reports:

Reviewer 1: All of my prior concerns have been adequately addressed. In my opinion, the manuscript is suitable to move forward to publication.

Response: Thank you

Reviewer 2: Authors can consider elaborating (AFB/ field) 1+, 2+, 3+ and scanty in lines 236-236 for the sake of clarity.

Response: The fluorochrome-stained smears were examined and graded as follows: 5-49 AFB in one length (Scanty), 3-24 AFB in one field (1+), 25-250 AFB in one field (2+) and > 250 AFB in one field (3+). The results section has been revised to include the elaborate grading (Table 1) and lines 236-236 have been revised for clarity.

Authors can consider mentioning the region of amplification and primers details more elaborately in lines 89-91 for the sake of clarity.

Response: Thank you. This background section (Lines 88-97) has been revised as suggested by the reviewer to include details on the region of amplification and primers. The revised section is as follows:

‘Details of TB-LAMP test with the region of amplification and primers have been described in earlier reports (Ref 13). Briefly, the fundamental reaction requires four types of primer which are complementary to six regions of the target gene: the F3c,F2c and F1c regions at the 3’side and the B1,B2 and B3 regions at the 5'side. The FIP primer consists of the F2 region that is
complementary to the F2c region on the target gene at the 3'end, linked to a copy of the F1c target gene sequence at the 5'end. The BIP primer consists of the B2 region that is complementary to the B2c region on the target gene at the 3' end, linked to a copy of the B1c target gene sequence at the 5'end. The FIP and BIP primers are responsible for the formation of loop structures. F3 and B3 are forward and backward displacement primers complementary to the F3c and B3c regions on the target gene, respectively.