Author’s response to reviews

Title: Investigation of Household Contacts of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Patients Increases Case Detection in Mwanza city, Tanzania

Authors:
Medard Beyanga (medbey@hotmail.com)
Benson Kidenya (benkidenya@yahoo.com)
Lisa Gerwing-Adima (gerwinglisa@yahoo.co.uk)
Eleanor Ochodo (eochodo@sun.ac.za)
Stephen Mshana (mshana72@yahoo.com)
Christa Kasang (comka@web.de)

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Response to Editor’s and Reviewer’s comments

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Household Contacts Investigation of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Patients Increases Case Detection in Mwanza city, Tanzania

Medard Beyanga, BBLT, MSc; Benson Richard Kidenya, MD, MSc, MS, PhD Fellow; Lisa Gerwing-Adima, MSc; Eleanor Ochodo, MD, PhD; Stephen E Mshana, MD, M.Med, PhD; Christa Kasang, PhD

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Editor’s comments

1. There are some reviewer comments which remain - see end of email. Please address them and amend your manuscript accordingly.

Response: We have amended as shown below.
2. Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript, please move them. Figure files should contain only the image/graphic, as well as any associated keys/annotations. If titles/legends are present within the figure files, please remove them.

Response: We have modified the figure

Reviewer reports:

Jason Michael Bacha, M.D., M.S. (Reviewer 1): Discretionary revisions for consideration:

Abstract

Background: "We aimed to determine the XXX…” needs XXX to be "amount of" or "rates of" or some other phrasing to be written before "bacteriologically-confirmed…”

Response: We have modified it to read “We aimed to determine the magnitude of bacteriologically-confirmed pulmonary tuberculosis…”

Methods: need to put the time period of the study at the end of the first sentence. The methods only gives the time period of the inclusion criteria (May-July 2016) but not the time period of the study (e.g. including tracing, sputum collection, follow up, etc). Could also remove the first "per household contact" as later in the same sentence you write "for all household contacts.”

Response: We have specified the time for the study of which is August to December 2016.

We did not remove the “per household contact” as this means that for all household contacts two sputum samples were taken for each patients.
Table 2: add "microbacteriologically-confirmed pulmonary" before 'tuberculosis' into the title of Table 2

Response: We have edited the heading of the table

Minor grammatical suggestions:

Title: the phrasing "household contact investigation" (without the 's') or "Investigation of Household Contacts" are preferred;

Response: we have modified the title now it reads “Investigation of Household Contacts….“