Author’s response to reviews


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Responses to comments

Comment 1: Please confirm whether your study was submitted to and approved by your institutional ethics committee and include a statement to this effect in your Methods section. Please also ensure that full name of your ethics committee is included in this statement. If the need for ethics approval was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation. Please include this information in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations.

Response 1: Permission to carry out the study was sought from Lancet Clinical laboratory and the Health Studies Office in the Ministry of Health Institutional review Board. The information used in this study was a data set where the data are properly anonymised, no access to patient names was available. See page 8 and page 16

Comment 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. Where titles /legends are present within the figures within figure files please remove them.

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Response 2: Figure legends provided. See page 21

Figure 1 – Figure 5 added as separate docs and contain the associated keys above the figure.

Comment 3: At this stage, we ask that you submit a clean version of your manuscript and do not include track changes or highlighting

Response 3: Noted