Author’s response to reviews

Title: Risk factors for viral hepatitis C infection in Rwanda: Results from a Nationwide Screening Program

Authors:

Jean Damascene Makuza (makorofr@gmail.com)
Carol Liu (ykliu2680@gmail.com)
Corneille Ntihabose (ckntihabose@gmail.com)
Donatha Dushimiyimana (dushidona@gmail.com)
Sabine Umuraza (sumuraza@clintonhealthaccess.org)
Marie Nisingizwe (nisimariepaul@gmail.com)
Justine Umutesi (umujustin@gmail.com)
Janvier Serumondo (jserumondo@gmail.com)
Soline Mugeni (smugeni@clintonhealthaccess.org)
Muhamed Semakula (semakulam@gmail.com)
Neil Gupta (neilgupta80@gmail.com)
Margaret Hellard (margaret.hellard@burnet.edu.au)
Sabin Nsanzimana (nsabinco@gmail.com)

Version: 2 Date: 23 Jul 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

July 23rd, 2019

Dear Oliver Cocks

BMC Infectious Diseases

Enclosed is a revised version 2 of our manuscript entitled: "Risk factors for viral hepatitis C infection in Rwanda: Results from a Nationwide Screening Program" (INFD-D-19-00889R1).
We are pleased to submit a new version of the manuscript considering new comments from the reviewers. Below we respond (italics) to specific comments and queries of the reviewers (bold).

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Damascene Makuza, MD, MSc.

1. Please change the section heading “Introduction” to “Background”.

Thank you, this change has been considered in the revised manuscript.

2. Please add a “Conclusions” section after the “Discussion” section. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research article and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.

Thank you for this comments, “Conclusions” section was added after “Discussion” section in the revised manuscript.

3. Please clarify whether any administrative permissions were required to access the raw data. If so, please state who granted permission in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section.

Thank you for the comments, in the revised manuscript the administrative permissions were required to access the raw data. We stated in revised manuscript that “The approval for utilization of data was obtained by Rwanda Biomedical Center (No 2407/RBC/2019).”

4. In the “Funding” section of your declarations, please clarify the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Thank you for the comments, the role of the funding body in the design of study and collection, analysis and interpretation of data and writing of the manuscript was precised in the revised manuscript. “The funder has no direct involvement in study design and data collection. The design of the study, analysis, interpretation of data and writing the manuscript were conducted independently by authors.”

5. Please change the Declarations section heading “Contributors” to “Author Contributions”.


Thank you for the comments, “Contributors” changed to “Author Contributions” in the Declaration section of the revised manuscript.

6. The individual contributions of all authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section. Currently the contributions of Sabine Umuraza, Marie Paul Nisingizwe, Neil Gupta, and Margaret Hellard are not described.

Thank you for the comments, Contributions of Sabine Umuraza, Marie Paul Nisingizwe, Neil Gupta and Margaret Hellard were precised in the new version of manuscript.

‘MJD, CJL, NCK, UJ, DD, DSM, JS, MS, NMP, NG, MH and SN developed the study protocol and study design. MJD, CJL, NCK, UJ, DD and JS collected the data. MJD did the data analysis and developed the figure and tables. All authors participated in interpretation of the data. MJD did the literature review and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. All authors reviewed and provided critique of the manuscript.’

7. Please move your "Acknowledgements" section from your title page to below your Declarations.

Thank you for the comments, ‘Acknowledgements section was moved from title page to below Declarations in the revised manuscript.'