Author’s response to reviews

Title: Nasopharyngeal carriage, spa types and antibiotic susceptibility profiles of Staphylococcus aureus from healthy children less than 5 years in Eastern Uganda

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Author’s response to reviews:

18 November 2019

Professor Adebayo Osagie Shittu, PhD
BMC Infectious Diseases

Dear Editor,

Once again we thank you for handling our manuscript through the peer-review process, and for the useful comments and/or suggestions. We have dully effected all your suggestions and those of Reviewer No.1. and we find that the revised manuscript reads much better now. Please find below a point-by-point response to each of the suggestion with details on where the changes can be found. We affirm that our revised manuscript conforms to the journal style. We look forward to hearing from you soon regarding an editorial decision.

Best regards,

David P Kateete, for all authors
Makerere University
Comment:

Line 52 - suggestion: Fourteen spa types were detected in MSSA which consisted mainly of t645 & t4353.

Response:

The suggestion has been effected, see lines 53/54 (page 3).

Comment:

Line 190 & 191 - suggestion: There were other spa types that exclusively occurred in MSSA......

Response:

The suggestion has been effected, see lines 194/195 (page 9).

Comment:

Line 210-211 - suggestion: number of isolates from the other sites (i.e. Mulago Hospital & rural Western Uganda) are as follows:.......

Response:

The suggestion has been effected, lines 213/214 (page 10).

Comment:

Line 222 - suggestion: neither associated with MRSA or MSSA. Interestingly, spa type t064 that was significantly

Response:

The suggested changes have been effected (lines 224/225, page 10). Thank you.

Comment:

Line 237 - suggestion: [35]. However, the study....

Response:

The suggested change has been effected (lines 241, page 11).

Comment:

Line 244 - suggestion: [10]. Large households......
Response:

The suggested change has been effected (lines 248, page 11).

Comment:

Line 247 - suggestion: and well water. By 2008, only 1% of the children had access to pipe borne water......

Response:

The suggested revision has been effected (line 251, page 11).

Comment:

Line 324: delete DST: Drug susceptibility testing

Response:

“DST: Drug susceptibility testing” has been deleted, see page 15.

Comment:

Line 533 - suggestion: The most common S. aureus spa types identified in Uganda

Response:

The suggested revision has been effected, see line 534 (page 20).

SAMUEL TAIWO (REVIEWER 1):

Comment:

The authors have satisfactorily responded to most of the comments in my previous review especially with regard to the study design. However, my previous observation under the "Ethics approval and consent to participate" in which the authors referenced three studies; Kateete et al (ref 8) and Seni et al (ref 9 &amp; 27) as being the source of their bacterial isolates, were not taken into consideration. These three referenced studies were conducted on adult population with SSI and will be inappropriate for the current study on children <5 years. I think the authors should stick to their explanation of samples from 742 children in the main 2011 study (ref 36) out of ~1300 children investigated for pneumococcal carriage in IMHDSS (unpublished observation), and delete the three referenced studies.

Response:

We sincerely apologize for this omission in our previous submission as we completely misunderstood your comment. As advised, we have now deleted the three referenced studies in the current revised manuscript and stuck to the main 2011 study (see lines 338-344, page 15). We thank you.