Author’s response to reviews

Title: Ultrasound in managing extrapulmonary Tuberculosis: A randomized controlled two-center study

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Dear Editor

Thank you very much for reviewing our submission. We addressed all points raised in the point by point reply below.

Point by point reply

1. Timeline Section
Please update your Timeline section in line with your cover letter.

We thank the editor for this comment. We adapted this section according to the current situation as follows:

Recruitment started September 23rd 2018 and was initially planned until the end of February 2020 with a follow-up until August 2020 (Table S1). Due to initial slow recruitment, we planned a prolongation of recruitment until June 2020 and of follow-up until December 2020. However, due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, recruitment had to be paused on March 30th 2020, based on the recommendation of the National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzania. Until March 30th 2020, a total of 538 patients were included. To date, it is not possible to determine the date when recruitment will be resumed. Therefore, the study period will be prolonged again by the time that recruitment was paused.

2. Ethics
Please rename ethics to ‘Ethics approval and consent for Publication’

We renamed this section as required

3. Consent for publication
Currently, the statement in your “consent for publication” section of your declarations is incorrect. Consent for publication refers to consent for the publication of identifying images or other personal or clinical details of participants that compromise anonymity. Seeing as this is not applicable to your manuscript please state “Not Applicable” in this section.

We stated “Not Applicable” in this section

4. Availability of Data and Materials
In the Availability of data and materials section please clearly state who should be contacted if someone wants to request the data.
We added “Data and Materials are available on justified request. Please contact the corresponding author Dr Martin Rohacek if data are requested”

5. Contributions
Please rename Contributions to Authors’ Contributions

We renamed this as requested

6. Authors’ Contributions of NK
We have noted that author Namvua Kimera (NK) is missing in the listed authors' contributions. The individual contributions of ALL authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section. Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found here: http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship

We added “NK performs microbiological tests”.

7. Dissemination Policy
Please remove the Dissemination Policy from the declarations.

We removed this section.

8. Remove files
Please remove any files from your file inventory that you do not wish to be published alongside your manuscript. For example the ethics and funding proofs, SPIRIT Checklist and the cover letter.

We removed all these documents

9. Clean manuscript
At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Additional files should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

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