Author's response to reviews

Title: Bubble CPAP to support preterm infants in rural Rwanda: a retrospective cohort study

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To the Editors of BMC Pediatrics:

We are pleased to submit the updated manuscript entitled “Bubble CPAP to support preterm infants in rural Rwanda: a retrospective cohort study”. We reviewed each section of the manuscript against the STROBE guidelines and found that for the most part, our manuscript aligns with the guidelines.

We have made a few adjustments for the items in the checklist that were not explicitly addressed in the previous manuscript. The following are the adjustments we have made:

**Title and abstract:** Fully complied with STROBE guidelines

**Introduction:** Fully complied with STROBE guidelines

**Methods:** We have made the following adjustments to fully comply with STROBE guidelines.

To show how missing data were addressed, we have added the following text in line 140-141: “For infants included in the study, we added a category of unknown for missing data.”

To show the statistics we have used, we have added the text below in line 151-154

“We used descriptive statistics reporting number and percent of infant characteristics, infants identified as eligible to bCPAP, infants for whom bCPAP was initiated and clinical outcomes based on CPAP eligibility. We also used median and interquartile range for the duration of stay in the hospital.”

The consent from parents of the babies was waived by Rwanda institutional review boards. We have added the text below in the line 155-158.

“The study received technical and ethical approvals from Rwanda institutional review boards: The Inshuti Mu Buzima Research Committee (IMBRC), the National Health Research Committee (NHRC) and the Rwanda National Ethics Committee (RNEC). As the study used de-identified routinely corrected data, the consent for parents was waived”.

For the STROBE guidelines, the following statement was made in the manuscript in line 158-160:

“STROBE (STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology) guidelines were also followed for this study”.

**Results:** We have made this adjustment to fully comply with STROBE guidelines.

To summarize follow-up time, we have added a variable in the table indicating duration median and interquartile range of duration from admission to discharge. We have also added the following text in the results section in line 168-169 “The median number of days of stay at the hospital was 19 with an interquartile range of 6-32 days.”
**Discussion:** Fully complied with STROBE guidelines

**List of abbreviations:** We have added the text below in line 268: “STROBE: STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology”

**Other information:** Fully complied with STROBE guidelines

Thank you for your kind consideration and we look forward to your feedback

Sincerely,

Evrard Nahimana, MD
Partners In Health-Inshuti Mu Buzima