Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and intensity of Ascaris lumbricoides infections in relation to undernutrition among children in a tea plantation community, Sri Lanka: a cross-sectional study

Authors:

Lahiru Galgamuwa (lahiruahs@yahoo.com)

Devika Iddawela (devikaiddawela@yahoo.com)

Samath Dharmaratne (samath62@yahoo.com)

Version: 2 Date: 17 Aug 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and intensity of Ascaris lumbricoides infections in relation to undernutrition among children in a tea plantation community, Sri Lanka: a cross-sectional study

Authors: Lahiru Sandaruwan Galgamuwa (lahiruahs@yahoo.com)

Devika Iddawela (devikaiddawela@yahoo.com)

Samath D. Dharmaratne (Samath62@yahoo.com)

Version: 3 Date: 17 August 2017

Reviewer reports:

Abraham Degarege (Reviewer 1):

This revised manuscript is better than the first submission. However, the language of the manuscript needs major revision for language to make it suitable for publication. There are errors in grammar and punctuation in all sections of the paper. The manuscript lacks flow sometimes. This makes hard to read the manuscript. In addition, some of the comments suggested previously are not fully addressed. I recommend the authors to improve the language and make the following changes before the manuscript gets published.

Author

Corrected errors in grammar and punctuations
Abstract

1. The statement 'De-worming periods greater than six months were significantly associated with Ascaris infections' still lacks clarity. It needs revision (e.g. De-worming........reduction in the prevalence of Ascaris infections).

Author

Changed the sentence as follows

“Prevalence of Ascaris infections was significantly associated with de-worming more than six months prior to the collection.”

2. Include information about how stool was examined for checking Ascaris infection in the method section

Author

Add a sentence as follows

“Stool samples were subjected to wet mount preparation followed by formaldehyde-ether sedimentation technique to diagnose Ascaris infection and a Kato Katz technique was performed to determine the eggs intensity.”

Background

1. Consider replacing the word 'consist' with 'is available' or is common’ in the statement which reads as 'Ascaris lumbricoides is an intestinal nematode common in low socio economic communities where limited access to clean water, poor personal hygiene and sanitary facilities consist'.

Author

Done it

2. The type of infection you are referring is not clear in the statement 'It is estimated that more than 1 billion people are infected globally and 10.5 million new cases are reported annually'.

Changed it as follows

Author
“It is estimated that more than 1 billion people are infected with intestinal parasitic infections worldwide and 10.5 million new cases are reported annually”

3. Replace article 'they' with other terms (e.g. Ascaris infection) in the statement which reads 'They can also cause malabsorption of vitamin A and reduction of lactose digestion which affect the nutritional status leading growth retardation, undernutrition, impaired cognitive functions and low educational achievements in children'.

Author

Changed the sentence as follows

“Ascaris worms obstruct the small intestine in young children and occasionally enter and block pancreatic and bile ducts, thereby causing malabsorption of vitamin A and reduction of lactose digestion. This leads to growth retardation, undernutrition, impaired cognitive functions and low educational achievements in children”

4. The statement "In addition, undernutrition increase the risk of infections among children and hence, are major causes of death especially among children” do not flow

Author

Removed it

Methods

1. If three Kato Katz slides were prepared for each sample, it is not clear how intensity of infection was determined based on these samples? (Average, highest, lowest estimate)

Author

Changed the sentence as follows

“The recommended template of 41.7 mg was used and the average number of eggs counted was multiplied by 24 to get the number of eggs per gram of feces (EPG).”
2. Comment 5 is not fully addressed. Replace the word 'multivariate' with 'multiple' throughout the text.

Author

Replace the word 'multivariate' with 'multiple'

3. Comment 9 is not fully addressed. Information whether you get assent from children who participated in the study is required.

Author

Changed the sentence as follows

“Before the commencement of the study, the objectives of the study were explained to all parents/guardians whose children were selected for the study.”