Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 05 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Abraham Degarege

Reviewer's report:

This revised manuscript is better than the first submission. However, the language of the manuscript need 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.

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).

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

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'.

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'.

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'.
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.

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)

2. Comment 5 is not fully addressed. Replace the word 'multivariate' with 'multiple' throughout the text.

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

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal