Author’s response to reviews

Title: Diagnosis and Antibiotic Treatment of Group A Streptococcal Pharyngitis in Children in a Primary Care Setting: Impact of Point-of-Care Polymerase Chain Reaction

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Author’s response to reviews:

The authors thank the Editor and the reviewers for their detailed review of our manuscript and the helpful comments. Here we address each point.

Editor's Comments:

In addition to the minor comments below, please if possible could you add some values in the discussion about the relative costs of the 2 assays at POC if this information is available.

Response: We have added costs into the Discussion (Page 14, lines 298-305).

Reviewer 1 comments:

1. Number of participants enrolled in this trial to be mentioned in Abstract method section.

Response: This has now been included in the abstract (Page 3, line 50)
2. Write proper abbreviation "e.g.," in line 49, page 5.

Response: This has been amended on Page 5, and the rest of the manuscript checked for similar issues.


Response: This has been corrected on page 6, line 108.

4. Table 1 and 2, number of samples should be mentioned, along with percentage, like 105 (99.5%) for each reading.

Response: Table 1 has been updated to include the number of samples as well as the percentages. Table 2 already included the n/N, and we have added an extra clarification of how these numbers were achieved in the footnote.

5. In Method section, briefly describe the method for culturing of GAS bacteria.

Response: This has been added on Page 8, lines 142-148.

6. The primers sequence for NAAT may be mentioned in the article or supplementary data.

Response: The primer sequences for the NAAT tests used in the study are not publicly available so we are unable to include this information.

7. Overall sensitivity of Quidel Quick Vue RADT reported to be lower compared to company manufactured sensitivity ???

Response: This has been addressed in a sentence added to the Discussion (lines 238-240), and the Quidel Package Insert has been added as reference 21.

8. In general, Bacterial culture was considered a gold standard and used as a bench mark for technical analysis. Why do you find lowest level of sensitivity in this case?

Response: The data in this study and similar studies referenced in the manuscript conclude that the performance of culture executed in routine clinical use can be less sensitive than the reference culture used in clinical studies due to difference in methodology. This is a significant finding for consideration when discussing Group A Strep. The authors feel they have adequately addressed the reason for this overall difference in the Discussion.
Reviewer 2 comments:

Being a revised manuscript, the authors adequately addressed issues raised by the initial reviewers thus enhancing the standard in the current format of the manuscript.

Response: We believe that this reviewer is satisfied with the original revisions and has not requested any further revisions.