Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk factors for recurrent severe anemia among previously transfused children in Uganda: an age-matched case-control study

Version: 0 Date: 31 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Wafaa Al-Qabandi

Reviewer’s report:

Comments on BMC (BPED-D-18-00982):

A. Just to verify: did the controls have previous blood transfusion also??

B. Table 1:
   * The highest number of both cases and controls were from Ninja, is this the largest city with the major population??

C. Table 2:
   * History:
   1- More controls have history of malarial anemia at most recent admission compared to cases?? Why was that? Cases are expected to have that history.

   2- History of earlier previous transfusions: 51.5% of the cases and 82.1% of the controls have no history of previous transfusion. I understood that all cases and controls had history of previous transfusion (2 weeks-6 months prior to enrollment).

   * At current admission:
     - Suspected bacteremia between cases and controls was non-significant (P=0.06).

D. Discussion:

1- It is written on line 174-175: suspected bacteremia was independently associated with RSA but no statistical significance was shown in the table.

2- Line 206-207: it is written that "75% of cases had a diagnosis of malarial anemia at the most recent prior admission". Also, 81% of controls have that history, how can this item in history makes a difference between cases and controls.
E. Is G6PD deficiency common in Uganda?? It is good to test those cases for G6PD too to know if this was a contributing factor.

**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?**
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Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
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I am able to assess the statistics

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