Reviewer’s report

Title: ASSOCIATION OF VITAMIN D AND DIARRHOEA IN CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN FIVE YEARS AT MUHIMBILI NATIONAL HOSPITAL, DAR ES SALAAM: AN UNMATCHED CASE CONTROL STUDY

Version: 1 Date: 14 May 2019

Reviewer: Balakrishnan Ramakrishna

Reviewer's report:

The following Response is inadequate: "Thank you for the comment. The authors decided to use the cut off values from Endocrine Society because previous studies done in Tanzania have used these cut-offs and local clinical practice is based on these cut-offs. Hence, this study would serve to provide a local clinical guidance and also be relevant when comparing to studies which have used a similar cut-off."

COMMENT: It will be appropriate if the Discussion includes a penultimate paragraph titled "Limitations of the study”. This paragraph should discuss the difference between the two cut-off levels and acknowledge that the prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency would appear to be much lower if the more rigorous cut-off was used.

Tables 2 and 3 should actually be combined into a single analysis (2x3 Table) and the analysis presented accordingly.

Table 5 does not include the actual numbers in each group. These numbers should be provided in addition to the Reference group, OR, and CI (P value is not mandatory).

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.

No
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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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