Author’s response to reviews

Title: Pertussis detection in children with cough of any duration

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1) Line 196: regarding the use of H. influenzae for MIC interpretation, I would not use the term 'unquestionable', as this is a proxy for MIC's. This should still require a reference to validate its use, such as 'Hariba, et al. Jpn J Infect Dis. 2014;67:345-348', formatted to journal reference standards.

A: Thank you for your great effort on my paper, editor.

Because there was no standard breakpoints for B. pertussis colonizing in the nasopharynx recommended by CLSI and EUCAST, so we just habitually selected a similar bacteria (H. influenzae) colonized in the nasopharynx serve as a reference. The references for CLSI and EUCAST have been provided in the text for detailed MIC interpretation of H. influenza, and the whole reference order has been rechecked. Regarding this, the sentence “However, the classification of susceptible, intermediate and resistant was unquestionable” has been deleted. (Methods section, line192-196, page 9)
2) No address 2 concerns from reviewer 1, I would list the absence of chest X-ray interpretation/comparisons and the absence of a specific age breakdown for apnea and cyanosis as a limitation of the study in the discussion section.

A: Thank you editor. These have been listed as limitations of the study in the discussion section.(Discussion section, line 385-387, page 18)

3) I would add that DTap was used after 2012 in China (if this is correct) somewhere in the text, given the differential efficacy of DTP and DTaP.

A: Thank you editor. “DTaP was widely used after 2012 in China” has been added in the text. (Methods section, line 149-150, page 7)

4) Line 386 has a 'hanging comma' at the end of the sentence which should be a period.

A: Thank you editor. A period has been put at the end of the sentence. (Discussion section, line 389, page 18)