Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and drug resistance profile of Mycobacterium tuberculosis isolated from pulmonary tuberculosis patients in East Gojam Zone, North-West Ethiopia

Authors:

Kelemework A Asmare 1,2,3 (ingoldmlt@gmail.com)
Gobena A Chimdi 2 (gobenachimdi2009@yahoo.co.uk)
Shiferaw B Negasso 3 (shiferawbekele@gmail.com)
Markos A Alemayehu 3 (markosabebe@yahoo.com)
Abraham A Armdie 3 (aseffaa@gmail.com)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief,

We hereby submit a manuscript entitled “Prevalence and Drug Resistance Profile of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Isolated from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Patients in East Gojam Zone, North-West Ethiopia” to be considered for publication as original article in BMC Public Health.

In this manuscript, we explored the burden of TB-HIV co-infection and drug resistance patterns of M. tuberculosis isolates from new and retreatment cases from rural areas of the North West Ethiopia. Owing to the scarcity of information on drug resistant TB in Ethiopia, especially from rural areas, this paper provides valuable information on this regard.

Our findings showed that TB-HIV co-infection and drug resistance TB including multi drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) are prevalent among rural pulmonary TB patients in North West Ethiopia. Unlike previous studies in Ethiopia, which were almost exclusively conducted in the urban areas at referral sites, our study was conducted in rural health facilities where there is no information. Compared to previous studies, our finding demonstrated a relatively higher rate of rifampicin resistance which signals the danger of increasing MDR-TB in the future. A higher level of MDR-TB was observed among previously treated patients; raising concerns about the quality of directly observed therapy (DOT) and adherence to treatment.

The findings of our study could be used by TB control program people for designing evidence based interventions in order to stop the spread of MDR strains. Hence, we preferred submitting this manuscript for publication in your reputable Journal since BMC Public Health is frequently viewed by many researchers and program people and gives readers access to the information.

We declare that this manuscript has not been published, accepted for publication or under editorial for publication elsewhere and all the authors have agreed to have seen and approved the manuscript for submission.

We hope you find our manuscript suitable for publication and looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kelemework Adane (Corresponding/first author)

MSc, Department of Microbiology and Immunology

College of Health Sciences, Mekelle University.