Author’s response to reviews

Title: Estimation of cumulative number of post-treatment Lyme disease cases in the US, 2016 and 2020

Authors:

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Author’s response to reviews:

BMC Public Health

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Thank you for allowing us to revise manuscript reference number PUBH-D-18-0271, “Estimation of cumulative number of post-treatment Lyme disease cases in the US, 2016 and 2020.” The remaining comments were all editorial and related to the Declarations section, which we have revised. We hope that the paper is now suitable for publication in BMC Public Health.

Sincerely,

Allison K. DeLong
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U.S.A.
Editor Comments:

Comment 1. Please specify permissions for use of data in your ethics and consent to participate
section, or please specify if the data is publicly available and where the data can be found.

Author Reply: We have amended this section to include links to our input data sources. This
declaration now reads: “Input data for this study included (1) US CDC reported survival rates,
which are publically available at https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality_tables.htm, (2) age
and gender distribution of new Lyme disease cases from https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/index.html,
and (3) CDC-reported Lyme disease surveillance data publically available from
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/ss/ss6622a1.htm.

No other external data were used in this study.”

Comment 2. We note that Mayla Hsu, Harriet Kotsoris have affiliations with Global Lyme
Alliance. This could be deemed as a competing interest and we ask that you declare this in your
competing interest section. Please see the link below for details on what constitutes as a
competing interest: https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#competing+interests

Author Reply: We have reviewed the details relevant to competing interests and have provided
the following statement in the declarations section so as to be as transparent as possible. The
section now reads: “Mayla Hsu, Ph.D. is the Director of Research and Science at Global Lyme
Alliance, a nonprofit organization. Harriet O. Kotsoris, M.D. was formerly associated with
Global Lyme Alliance on a volunteer basis, and from time to time advises one or more other
nonprofit organizations in connection with tick-borne diseases. The authors declare that they
have no competing interests.

The views and opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the
official policy or position of Brown University or Global Lyme Alliance.”

Comment 3. The consent for publication section would be relevant in a case report/clinical study
where you are publishing specific patient details, since this does not apply in this case, we ask
that you use the wording Not Applicable in this section.
Author Reply: As suggested, we have modified the “Consent for publication” statement to be “Not Applicable”