Author’s response to reviews

Title: Asthma and atopy prevalence are not reduced among former tuberculosis patients compared with controls in Lima, Peru

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Author’s response to reviews:

My co-authors and I thank you for reviewing our manuscript and for giving us the opportunity to respond to your comments. Please find our point by point response to each of the (second) reviewer’s comments below;

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

ABSTRACT

Comment: This is well-written and straight to the point.
Response: Thank you.
INTRODUCTION

"Whilst tuberculosis remains the biggest infectious disease killer on the planet, being responsible for an estimated 1.6 million deaths in 2015...."

Comment 1: Please, use mortality figures based on the 2018 Global TB Report

Response: This line (75 of the introduction) has been changed to “1.6 million deaths” as per the 2018 Global TB report. The associated reference (10) has also been changed to reflect this update.

Study objective: "Hence, we have sought to establish whether individuals with a confirmed history of tuberculosis have a reduced risk of atopy and of atopic diseases compared with people without a history of tuberculosis."

Comment 2: Although the study objective was implied in the last paragraph of the Introduction section, I feel it should be more clearly stated as the last sentence of the paragraph

Response: We have made the objective clearer and placed it as suggested, as the last sentence of the introduction (line 96) …” The objective of this study was to determine whether individuals with a confirmed history of tuberculosis have a reduced risk of atopy and of atopic diseases compared with people without a history of tuberculosis”....

RESULTS

Table 1:

Comment 3: Please, include the P-values comparing the two groups in Table 1.

Response: P values have now been added to Table 1.

REFERENCES AND REFERENCING

Comment 4: Please, use a consistent referencing style. The author used up to three different styles to reference the manuscript

Response: Thank you. The references are now written in a consistent style in line with the BMC Pulmonary Medicine guidelines.
Comment 5: Please, provide full reference for ref. 40

Response: Now added to References line 428.

NB.

In addition, the manuscript includes the first author Dr Anthony Byrne as being affiliated with The University of Sydney Law School. This is incorrect as it should be the University of Sydney Medical School. Please amend.