Author’s response to reviews

Title: Social determinants of pulmonary tuberculosis in Brazil: an ecological study.

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BMC Pulmonary Medicine

Dear Editor

Thank you for considering our manuscript potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Pulmonary Medicine after the corrections suggested by the reviewers. Please find below a point-to-point answer to the concerns raised by the two reviewers.

Best regards

Alessandra Zille

Editor Comments:

1) Please provide a reference or stronger justification for the statement: "This study does not use all forms of tuberculosis but rather the cases of PTB due to the probably greater association of this type of disease with poverty."
Answer. Extra pulmonary TB cases were excluded of the analysis because the lack of evidence suggesting their association with social determinants. Furthermore, in Brazil most notified cases of extra pulmonary TB do not have bacteriological or anatomopathological diagnosis and are notified and treated based on clinical suspicion. On the other hand, increased incidence of respiratory infectious diseases are described as being associated with low socioeconomic levels, poverty, overcrowding and malnutrition.


2) In the section Ethics approval and consent to participate, please include a statement on the ethics approval for this study (as ethics was waived it should be stated here along with the name of the ethics committee). In addition, please include a statement on the permission to access and use the data for this study.

Answer. We included a statement about ethical approval, as requested. Data used for this study are public and can be accessed freely on electronic addresses of the Brazilian Government. We provided these electronic addresses on the text.

3) You have submitted this manuscript as a Database article in the submission system, however, this should be submitted as a Research article.

Answer. We will re-submitted the MS as a research article, as requested.

4) Unfortunately, there are still some minor language issues throughout the manuscript. Please ensure that you have thoroughly checked your manuscript for any other language, grammar and spacing errors. We recommend that you ask a native English speaking colleague to help you copy edit the paper. If this is not possible, you may need to use a professional language editing service. Use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of acceptance for publication.

Answer. We are sorry to hear this. The text was verified and corrected by Editage Cactus Communications, a recognized language editing service. However, we will send the text to them again with your comment.
Reviewer reports

Ricardo Alexandre Arcêncio (Reviewer 1): Although I recognize the manuscript has improved significantly since the first version, I think the text is not still enough clear in terms of English, maybe it could be reviewed by an English Native Speaker.

Answer. Again, we are sorry to hear this. The text was verified and corrected by Editage Cactus Communications, a recognized language editing service. However, we will send the text to them again with your comment.

Kind regards

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