Author’s response to reviews

Title: Diagnoses from lung specimen collected through flexible bronchoscopy from patients in a tertiary hospital in Dar es Salaam Tanzania: A retrospective cross-sectional study

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Reviewer’s Comment

1 I would recommend some medical editing to clarify some of the information in the results--especially the paragraph about histologic findings. I was a little confused at first especially by the use of the word majority to describe frequency of adenocarcinoma among the biopsy diagnoses when the frequency was only 34%. I think I was able to determine the authors' meaning eventually but it could be cleared up a bit.

Response For clarity the word majority has been omitted and instead the sentence rephrased to read “Of the 174 biopsies done, adenocarcinoma was the most common malignancy seen in 59/174(33.9%). (Page 8) Reviewer's comment

2 Regarding the statistical methods, the authors have chosen appropriate descriptive statistics with one caveat. They report using means and standard deviations for continuous variables, and this the correct way to report that data IF the continuous variables are normally distributed. If the distribution of variables is skewed then median and interquartile range would be the correct way. I don't know if the variables they describe are all normally distributed so the authors should clarify this point

Response Since the present manuscript does not contain any continuous data, I have deleted from data analysis section the sentence that described analysis of continuous variables. (Page 5)
Reviewer's comment

I think the discussion section could be more focused on the findings particular to their hospital and region. This type of descriptive report doesn't need to tell us they hypothesize about why adenocarcinomas have become more common. They could cut some of this and focus more on the implications of their own findings about the ramping up and formalization of a new bronchoscopy program.

Response There are a limited number of bronchoscopy studies from Africa which are in tandem with the current study. I have added a sentence in the discussion about TB diagnosis using bronchoscopy from a South African study. I have also stressed the need for expansion of bronchoscopy services in Tanzania in the discussion part. (Page 13) Additionally, the manuscript has been edited for typographical and grammatical errors.