Author’s response to reviews

Title: Tuberculosis Infectious pool and associated factors in East Gojjam Zone, Northwest Ethiopia

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Author’s response to reviews:

Cover letter to BMC Pulmonary journal editor
Amelia De Salis and Maire Clayton
9th Nov 2019

Journal editors
BMC Pulmonary Medicine
Subject: Submitting the revised manuscript on Tuberculosis Infectious pool and associated factors in East Gojjam Zone, Northwest Ethiopia [ID: PULM-D-19-00245]

Dear Amelia De Salis and Maire Clayton,

Thank you for your email dated 8th Nov 2019 enclosing the reviewers and editor comments and continuous email reminders. We, the authors have great thanks to the journal editor and the reviewers for reviewing and giving insightful comments to our manuscript. It is because of your comments that the manuscript reached to this stage. We have accepted and carefully reviewed those minor comments, and revised the manuscript accordingly. We also made significant language revisions (using proper punctuations/ comma, a hyphen, semicolon and period/; subject-verb agreement; and incorporating or replacing appropriate articles/ the, a/ to each section of the manuscript. For details, please refer to the point by point response sections below.

In the one by one response, comments of the editor are indicated in italics and replies to the comments are shown by the normal font style. Similarly, paragraph, line, and page numbers are used in the point by point response to indicate where the corrections are made.

We think, the revised version is now suitable for publication and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sincerely,
Mulusew Andualem Asemahgn
Associate professor of public health
School of Public Health, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia
General reflections to the BMC Pulmonary Medicine journal editors and manuscript reviewers

Dear BMC Pulmonary Medicine journal editors and reviewers, we heartily acknowledged your efforts made in each section of our manuscript. It is because of you that our manuscript reaches this stage. Taking your comments as triggering points, we made significant revisions to each section of the manuscript as you have observed during a point by point response to the first revision.

Dear journal editor, we have seen and accept all the comments you raised to be incorporated. We also did significant revisions on language from title to the reference sections to keep the quality and readability of the manuscript. The significant language revision in the manuscript includes using proper punctuations (comma, hyphen, semicolon and period); subject-verb agreement; and incorporating or replacing appropriate articles/ the, a/ to each section. We also used a free Grammarly language editing software as a confirmatory tool. We used paragraphs, lines, and page numbers to show the revisions made in the manuscript. The comments or suggestions of the editor are presented by italics and the responses are presented using normal font style with green color. The responses of comments and further language revisions are presented as follows:

Point by point responses to Dear Amelia De Salis/ Maire Clayton, Journal editors

Comment1: “If consent to participate statements are already present within the main text/Methods section, please also copy/place it under the 'Ethics approval and consent to participate.”

Replay1: We fully accept your comments and put it to the specified subheading as follows:
This ethical review committee of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bahir Dar University gave approval and ethical clearance. Also, verbal informed consent was taken from respective District Health Offices and each TB patient prior to data collection. You can get it on page19, under subheader Ethics approval and consent to participate section.

Comment2: “Many thanks for confirming that the informed consent obtained was verbal. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure.”

Replay2: We thank you for raising this important clarity question. As stated under the Ethical consideration (on page 9) and Ethics approval and consent to participate (on page 19) sections, the ethical review committee of the College of medicine and health sciences, Bahir Dar University reviewed the research protocol; approved it and gave ethical clearance letter prior to the actual data collection period. Since the majority of the participants were rural farmers with no education, we informed them well and read as we took ethical clearance from concerned body, data confidentiality, privacy, the right to be or not to be including withdrawing at any time from the study, no risks due to participation, no connection with their medication process, benefit of the study, clarity of study objectives, data collection procedures, and no direct incentives because of their participation. After giving adequate time to think over it, we asked them for further clarity if any and if they are volunteers to participate in the study. They fully accept it and continue in the study providing data. Thus, the only left task is putting their signs. This was just not to make them tensioned and help them not to link it with their medication process since most are farmers on anti-TB who usually give weight/regret if they put their signs.

Comment3: “Please rename Ethical clearance to "Ethics approval and consent to participate.”
Replay3: We thank you and gave value to your suggestions. We accept it and replace Ethical clearance by “Ethics approval and consent to participate”. You can see it on page 19 as a first subhead for the declaration section.

Comment4: “Thank you for providing a response to the reviewers. As this document is no longer required at this stage of the publication process, please remove it from your submission’s supplementary files.”

Replay4: We thank you much for your comment and personal assistance. We attached it as a supplementary file during the former revised submission to make it easily accessible to the reviewers and editor. But, it is not as an additional file for review or to be reviewed. Hence, we will not do it again and remove it from the author’s page while submitting this revised version.

Comment5: “At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colors. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate.”

Replay5: Thank you much for your concern and assistant. We did not include any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs and text in different colors to the revised manuscript.

Comment6: “Please check if your manuscript adheres with the BMC pulmonary medicine manuscript guideline and containing the Declaration section.”

Replay6: We valued your concerns to make our work be in line with the journal standard, which is a key criterion for acceptance. We developed this manuscript based on the BMC Pulmonary TB guideline. Thus, it has all sections including the Declaration section as per the guideline.

Additional revisions made to the manuscript

We assessed all sections of the manuscript from title to reference pages for language and related revision. Taking this in mind, we did significant language revisions; grammar (subject-verb agreement, sentence parallelism), punctuation (comma, semicolon, a hyphen, and the period), and introducing/removing/or replacing articles (the, a). We found more compound nouns throughout the manuscript that require a hyphen.

Here are a few examples

1. On the title, we revised “…zone…” to “…Zone…”

2. On page1, title page, we made a change in the current working department of Dr. Solomon Abebe as: Dr. Solomon Abebe Yimer2,3

   2 Department of Microbiology, Unit for Genome Dynamics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo

   3 Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Oslo, Norway
3. On the methods of an abstract section; In the first paragraph, line 1, the phrase “Institution based” is revised as “--- Institution-based…”, using a hyphen in between since it is a compound phrase/adjective.

4. On the results section of an abstract; on line3, the phrase “…magnitude of TB infectious pool…” is revised as “…magnitude of the TB infectious pool…” inserting “the” before TB. On the same line, “…infectious “…person days…” is revised as “…infectious person-days” by using a hyphen in between since it is a compound name.

Revisions to the Background section

In paragraph one, the phrase “…resource poor countries…” is revised as “…resource-poor countries…” by using a hyphen in between since it is a compound name or adjective.

In paragraph2, first line, “The sub Saharan Africa…” is revised as “ Sub-Saharan Africa…” using a hyphen since it is a compound name. In the same paragraph, line2, the word “…recent literatures…” is revised as “…recent literature…” since literature is a common and unaccountable noun. In the same paragraph, line4, the word “…multi drug resistant…” is revised as “…multidrug-resistant…” since it is a compound name. In addition, we insert “the” before the word “…Amhara…” to the last sentence of the background section of the last paragraph as “…East Gojjam Zone of the Amhara Region, Ethiopia..”

Revisions to the Methods, result, discussion and conclusion sections

On Linel, paragraph1, A facility based…is revised as “ A facility-based…” using a hyphen in between since it is a compound adjective.

Note: starting from the abstract to the end, we inserted a hyphen between compound names and adjectives such as facility-based, institution-based, pre-test, Sub-Saharan, person-days, multidrug-resistant, smear-positive, smear-negative, culture-positive, health-seeking, etc. Thus, in the methods section, we did these all. We also inserted or removed articles/the and a/ when necessary. In addition, we checked the manuscript for grammar/ subject-verb agreement such as: “…each retreatment categories…” is revised as “…each retreatment category…” ; “…each undetected PTB cases…” is revised as “…each undetected PTB case…”; the verb “was…” is revised to “were…” sine the subject is plural, and the verb “…has…” is revised to “have…” and vice versa.

We intert the word “rural” before the word “…residence,…” on page 12, line 1, last paragraph, under factor section and below Table 3.