Author’s response to reviews

Title: Vaginal douching in Zambia: A risk or benefit to women in the fight against cervical cancer: A retrospective cohort stud

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Editor comments:

1. Funding/Acknowledgements

Please remove the funding information from the Acknowledgements and include it in the Funding section instead. If you have no further acknowledgements, please put “Not Applicable” in the Acknowledgements section.

Response: We thank the Editor for this comment. The collaborators who have been acknowledged in the ‘acknowledgements’ section did not provide any funding towards the current study. However, they have continued providing support to individual authors with respect to capacity building. We have rephrased the sentences in the acknowledgements section. Kindly refer to ‘Declarations’, Page 13, lines 280-285.

2. Role of funder(s)

Please state clearly the role the funder(s) had in your study in the "funding" section of the declarations.

Response: Thank you for this comment. The current study was self-funded. We did not receive any form of funding from any organization or institution.
3. Language

Unfortunately, there are some minor language issues including phrasing and grammatical errors throughout the manuscript. Please ensure that you have thoroughly checked your manuscript for any other language errors. We recommend that you ask a native English speaking colleague to help you copyedit 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.

Response: We thank the Editor for this comment. We had our manuscript reviewed by a colleague who is fluent in English prior to resubmission.

4. Clean copy

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 colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: Thank you for this comment. We have ensured that the manuscript is clean and does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights or text in different colours. All Tables included in the manuscript are clean versions. We do not have any figures or additional files associated with the current study.