Author’s response to reviews

Title: Reference intervals for serum cystatin C and serum creatinine in an adult sub-Saharan African population

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TO THE EDITOR

Reference intervals for serum cystatin C and serum creatinine in an adult sub-Saharan African population

Dear Editor,

We are grateful to the reviewers for their time and very constructive comments on our manuscript. We have used their suggestions to improve the manuscript and wish to submit a revised version for further consideration. All modifications appear in blue color and we are
providing below a point-by-point response to explain how we have addressed each of the reviewers’ comments/criticisms. We look forward to the outcome of your evaluation.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the co-authors,

Dr. Jobert Richie Nansseu

REVIEWER 1

Luciano da Silva Selistre, Ph.D

Reviewer’s Comment 1

All concerns have been addressed adequately.

Authors’ Response 1

We thank you very much for your appreciation. We have mostly appreciated all the comments and suggestions made on the previous version of our manuscript which have surely permitted to increase the manuscript’s quality, clarity and content.

REVIEWER 2

Hans Pottel

Reviewer’s Comment 1

I have only one further remark: I am concerned with the nature of the patterns observed in figures 1a and 1b, where I did not expect to see this discontinuity in the log(cystatin C). I only see results corresponding with log(CysC) = 0.1, 0.05, 0, -0.05, -0.10, -0.1, -0.15, -0.225 which correspond with 1.26, 1.15, 1.00, 0.89, 0.79, 0.71, 0.60; in other words, it seems as if Cystatin C is measured in increments of 0.1 mg/L. Is that correct? I would advise to present results of Cystatin C with 2 digits, and use these results to redo figures 1a and 1b. If cystatin C is measured only to one digit, then this should be mentioned in the method's section!
Authors’ Response 1

We thank you very much for having raised our attention on this issue. Indeed, cystatin C was measured in increments of 0.1mg/L. Unfortunately at this stage, it is no more possible for us to repeat the assays and present results of cystatin C with two digits. Accordingly and as suggested, a sentence was added in the methods section as one can read on page 6: “Serum cystatin C was measured in increments of 0.1mg/L by particle-enhanced turbidimetric immunoassay using Tina-quant® Cystatin C reagent kits (Roche Diagnostics, USA)”. On the other hand, we really wish to thank you once again for all your previous comments and suggestions which have undoubtedly contributed in increasing our paper’s clarity, fluency and content.