Author’s response to reviews

Title: Vitamin D deficiency among newly diagnosed tuberculosis patients and their household contacts: a comparative cross-sectional study

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Author's response (3) to reviews

Vitamin D deficiency among newly diagnosed tuberculosis patients and their household contacts: a comparative cross-sectional study

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We would like to thank the reviewers and editor for sharing their view and experience. The comments are very important which will further improve the clarity of our manuscript. The revised manuscript is provided in the attached document and the following are the point by point responses to the comments.

Point by point response

Reviewer #2:

Abstract:
1. Objective: Objectives also include the search of factors associated with severe vitamin D deficiency in TB subjects. Please update your objectives. Moreover, authors should explain in the methods part of the manuscript why they decided to look after these factors only in TB patients and for severe deficiency only;

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments. The objective is updated and we have added information in the method part of the manuscript regarding why we decided to look after associated factors only for severe deficiency.

2. Line 45: Information about malnourishment should be removed from the abstract. Indeed, it is not even reported in the results part of the whole manuscript;

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comment. The word “malnourishment” is changed by the word “underweight” in this version.

3. Prevalence of vitamin D deficiency should also be given for HHC group;

Thank you for the comment. We have addressed the issue in this version of the manuscript.

4. Data about severe vitamin D deficiency should also be given for CC and HHC groups.

Thank you for the comment. We have addressed the issue in this version of the manuscript.

Results:

1. Line 181: remove the word "level" after BMI;

Thank you. The word is removed.
2. Results of BMI of HHC should be given.

Thank you for the comment. We have added the results of BMI result for HHC in this version.

3. Line 183-186: these results do not deserved to be presented in the written part. Authors should focused on results where a difference between groups has been showed and should present these results instead;

Thank you for the comment. We have revised the paragraph and presented the results where there is a difference between groups.

4. Table 2 is still unclear and should not be published in its current format. Authors should present the mean± SD values of vitamin D levels with p-values between groups (exactly in the same format than Table 1);

Thank you for the comment. We have totally revised the table 2 in this version of the manuscript.

5. The paragraph "prevalence of vitamin D deficiency among the study participants" should be a little be reorganized. Please start with the results about vitamin D insufficiency, then vitamin D deficiency, then severe vitamin D deficiency. Moreover, the prevalence should be presented for the three groups (TB, HHC and CC) and not only for one group. P-values should also be presented each time.

Thank you for the comment. The paragraph is reorganized and presented the results for all groups.

Thank you!!