Author’s response to reviews

Title: Use of saliva to monitor meningococcal vaccine responses: proposing a threshold in saliva as surrogate of protection

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Responses for the Editor’s comments

We thank the editor for the comments. Below are our response to the comments raised.

1. Thank you for your response and clarification regarding parental consent for the one participant aged 17. We appreciate you responding directly to us; however, this matter needs to be stated in the manuscript.

Please provide a statement in the Methods and Ethics approval and consent to participate subsection detailing that you obtained appropriate written consent for participation from parents in the case of minors involved in your study.

Response: Detailed information regarding consent from parents of children have been incorporated in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the manuscript (see line 326-329).

2. We kindly ask that you remove the titles and legends from your figure files. Figure titles and legends should be located solely in their own section.
Response: The change has been effected accordingly (See Figure file).

3. It was found that there are still no references to Tables 1–4 in the main text of your manuscript. Please provide references to the tables for the readers reference.

Response: Tables 1–4 have been referenced in the text accordingly (See Results section, lines 183–209).

4. Submission of a manuscript to a BioMed Central journal implies that materials described in the manuscript, including all relevant raw data, will be freely available to any scientist wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes, without breaching participant confidentiality. Thus, we request that you upload English language versions of all questionnaires developed specifically for use in this study as supplementary files. If the questionnaires are not yours or are already published by you, please supply references and/or links to them.

Response: The questionnaire is ours and we have attached it.

5. 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: This has been done accordingly.