

Author's response to reviews

Title: Severe malnutrition with and without HIV-1 infection in hospitalised children in Kampala, Uganda: differences in clinical features, haematological findings and CD4+ cell count

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The Editors
Nutrition Journal

Dear Editor,

REF: Response to correction of formatting errors

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Severe malnutrition with and without HIV-1 infection in hospitalised children in Kampala, Uganda: differences in clinical features, haematological findings and CD4+ cell count

Hanifa Bachou, Thorkild Tylleskar, Robert Downing and James K Tumwine

1. Abstract, line 8 and 12. Please avoid the use of abbreviations and trade names.

Line 8: “the CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ cells were measured by the flow cytometry and HIV serology was confirmed by enzyme linked immunoassay....”

Line 12: “(interquartile range 12-24 months)”

Response: The following abbreviations in the abstract have been replaced; **FACScan** with by the flow cytometry; **ELISA** with enzyme linked immunoassay and **IQR 12–24** with interquartile range 12-24 months

2. Abstract, line 20-23. The phrase “<20% (OR 3.1, 95% CI 1.5-6.5)” does not appear in the main body of the text. Furthermore, the description does not match to Figure 2. This sentence might be “The CD4⁺ cell percentages were more likely to be <15% (OR 4.2, 95% CI 1.4–13) and 15-25 % (OR 2.6, 95% CI 0.6–6.8) in children with nonoedematous malnutrition than in those with oedematous malnutrition.” or “The CD4⁺ cell percentages were more likely to be lower in children with nonoedematous malnutrition than in those with oedematous malnutrition even after controlling for the HIV infection.”

Response: The phrase line 20-23 of the Abstract, has been rewritten to read ‘*The CD4⁺ cell percentages were more likely to be lower in children with nonoedematous malnutrition than in those with oedematous malnutrition even after controlling for the HIV infection*’.

3. P5, line 12 – 20. These sentences have to be removed because the same sentences appear in the next page.

Response: The sentences on Subjects and methods section, P5, line 12 – 20 reading “*TriTEST reagents (CD3; FITC/CD4; PE/CD45; PerCP and CD3; FITC/CD8; PE/CD45; Per CP) were used to stain PBMC for CD4+/CD8+ cell counting in line with the manufacturer’s instructions. FACScan instrument and MultiSET software were used to perform flow cytometry and report the absolute CD4+ and CD8+ cell counts for each specimen using dual-platform approach (Becton Dickinson, Franklin lakes, NJ USA). and HIV testing was performed using standard HIV algorithm of two enzyme-linked immunoassays (EIA) in parallel. Western blot, realtime polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) was performed to confirm a positive EIA test for children below the 18 months old and children with indeterminate results on EIA.*” have been deleted.

We thank you very much for accepting to publish our resubmitted work in Nutrition Journal. We also wish to thank the reviewer for his tireless and useful comments.

Dr Hanifa Bachou