

Author's response to reviews

Title: Efficacy of iron fortification compared to iron supplementation among Vietnamese schoolchildren

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Author's response to reviews:

Hanoi, 16 November, 2006

Dear Dr. Hiromichi Kumagai,

Thank you very much for your positive decision on my paper. Hereby, we would like to respond to your comments (in Italics).

1 Please remove unnecessary capitalization from the title.

The unnecessary capitalization from the title was removed

2. Please remove all line numbers.

All the line numbers were removed

3. P8, line 5. Did you really include "dummy variables" in the regression model?

Yes we did include "dummy variables" in the regression models.

4. Table 3. The values appeared in this table like 2.59, 6.19, 25.53... seem to be differential changes in Hb, SF... What do you mean "(*)regression coefficients"? What is p value in this table?

We run 4 linear regression models with the following 4 outcome variables: change in Hb, change in SF, change in TfR, change in Body iron. We summarized these 4 separate models in one table (table 3). The values 2.59, 6.19; 25.53 ... are the improvement (or as you said the differential changes) in Hb and iron indicators of two treatment groups compared to the control group and these numbers are the regression coefficients (parameter estimates) of the dummy variables in the linear regression model. p values included in two columns in the table 3 referred to the nullhypothesis that the differential effects were zero (0) .

Thank you very much for your support and we hope our paper will be published soon!

With my best regards,

Huong Thi Le