

Author's response to reviews

Title: Temporal analysis of the incidence of meningitis in the Tehran metropolitan area, 1999-2005.

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Author's response to reviews: see over

Author's response to editor and reviewers' comments:

Reviewer Number 1

Reviewer Number 1 comment:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The authors do not sufficiently describe the surveillance through which these data have been collected

Author's response: The editor's request was met. The manuscript was largely revised and under the subheading of "subjects and definition". The surveillance through which these data have been collected was explained on page 4.

Reviewer Number 1 comment:

2. Too many graph and tables.

Table 1 should be replaced with a table showing the demographics of the study population (numbers and frequency: population, population included, age distribution....

Author's response: The editor's request was met. Table 1 was changed to the reviewer request. And number tables and graphs dropped to two tables and two graphs.

Reviewer Number 1 comment:

3. Add: epi curve-..

Author's response: The editor's request was met. Figure 1 was changed to the request of the reviewer

Reviewer Number 1 comment:

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. incidence is a rate of cases per 100,000 persons per "time". The authors use this inconsistently throughout the manuscript.

Author's response: The editor's request was met. All the incidences were stated in terms of population and time

Reviewer Number 1 comment:

2. p7 temporal analysis: 2.4 should be 2.6?

Author's response: The editor's request was met. Correction was made.

Reviewer Number 1 comment:

3. reference #17 is a repeat, ref#14 year typo?

Author's response: The editor's request was met. Correction was made.

Reviewer Number 2

Reviewer Number 2 comment:

Major corrections:

1- Please clearly state how (suspected to meningitis) patients are registered and confirmed in the health system of Iran?

Author's response: The editor's request was met. The manuscript was largely revised and under the subheading of "subjects and definition". The registration mechanism of meningitis in Iran's health care system was explained on page 4.

Reviewer Number 2 comment:

2- Tehran population in 1996 has been reported while in 2005 has not. The mid-term population should be calculated.

Author's response: The editor's request was met. The population figure for the year 1999, the year beginning the study period was stated in the "The population and study area description" subheading on page 5.

Reviewer Number 2 comment:

Minor correction:

1- Results para 2: date should be corrected: 199-2005

Author's response: It was corrected

Reviewer Number 2 comment:

2- Page 9: sentence should be re-written: 'To what extent the climatic factors...

Author's response: The paragraph rephrased to meet the reviewer request.

Reviewer Number 2 comment:

3- Page 11: More in-dept studies

Author's response: It was corrected