

Dear Editor,

I am sending back the final version of the manuscript n.32501, entitled "Typhoid perforation in developing countries: still unavoidable deaths?". The manuscript was modified according to the comments of the referee.

Referee #1

As suggested, a table (table 2) was inserted with a list of the few prospective studies found in the literature about typhoid intestinal perforation (TIP). Some of them are concerning comparative studies of different surgical procedures, while others are concerning prognostic evaluations according to the clinical state of the patients or to the available clinical scores. Unfortunately, the number of these studies is relatively scanty, even with an accurate research, most reports about this topic being retrospective, although often reporting a huge experience. A second table (Table 1) was added to report the immunization projects carried out until now and the countries where they were performed (mainly in Asia), especially to show how African countries did not carry out any immunization project, at least published. I hope that this table will be considered helpful.

With regard to the second point, in my opinion one of the most important challenges is to improve the socioeconomic conditions and immunization programs: to identify the populations to be targeted would be quite helpful for decision and policy makers. The recently proposed Typhoid Risk Factor (TRF) can be an important tool. I commented on this in the last four lines (written in red) of the paragraph "Inadequacy of the immunization programs."

Referee #2

The number of references was reduced, as suggested, from 97 to 79. I hope it will be acceptable.

Referee #3

The mentioned mistakes of English language were corrected.

Concerning the English language, the manuscript was carefully reviewed by a colleague, a native English surgeon, who made several significant changes and hopefully improved the English language and style to an acceptable standard. Looking at the final version of the manuscript, I hope that even without being certificated by an English language editing company, as you suggested, and in agreement with what happened with previous articles published in your journal, the manuscript could be considered suitable for publication.