

## **Manuscript 77434**

Response to Reviewers

Dear Editors-in-chief,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit a revised draft of the manuscript “A Five-year retrospective hospital-based study on epidemiological data regarding human Leishmaniasis in West Kordofan state- Sudan” for publication in the World Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases. We appreciate the time and effort that you and the reviewers dedicated to providing feedback on our manuscript and are grateful for the insightful comments on and valuable improvements to our paper.

We have incorporated most of the suggestions made by the reviewers. Those changes are highlighted within the manuscript. Please see below, for a point-by-point response to the reviewers’ comments and concerns. All page” **P**” and lines “**L**” numbers in read refer to the revised manuscript file with tracked changes.

**Here is a point-by-point response to the reviewers’ comments and concerns.**

### **Reviewer #1:**

**Comment:** The first sentence of the abstract and introduction are the same; please rephrase one of them.

**Response:** Okay, done.

**Comment:** Did not find the result of the type of leishmaniasis: Please classify the prevalence of CL and VL and their occurrence ratio in males and females

**Response:** Yes, because the raw data didn’t provide the occurrence of VL and CL in West Kordofan population.

**Comment:** The age group should also be divided into neonatal, pediatrics, and adults

**Response:** It is a great suggestion but we think when we divided the age group into the 6 mentioned groups it will be better... for example, the pediatric and adult group were divided into three groups those groups were classified based on one of the most important risks factors their ability to work and the type of work.

**Comment:** From the medical records, you can also get the site of infections; if possible, include that data too. The acute and chronic states of infections also need to be included.

**Response:** Unfortunately, the medical records didn't record the site of infection and the states of infections.

**Comment:** The patient types, morbidity rate, and outcomes of infections need to be included. The treatment used for curing infections needs to be mentioned. Knowing about the efficacy of different medicine in your state will provide a guideline for the prescribers

**Response:** The retrieved medical records were just about the prevalence, and no other data were retrieved.

**Comment:** In your study, the old aged people are more vulnerable to infections, while the prevalence is low in > 65 age patients. What is the possible reason for this? You may explain this in your discussion section. I will give you a hint that these patients might have less exposure to the infection due to their lifestyle.

**Response:** Thank you for pointing this out, hence, we have added the proposed correction **L183-188**.

**Comment:** Please include the limitation and implementation of your study in the discussion section. 10.

**Response:** Thank you very much for your comments, hence, we have added the proposed section **L189-L196**.

**Reviewer #2:**

**Comment:** The authors conducted a five years retrospective study to find the frequency and distribution of human leishmaniasis in West Kordofan state. And the results indicate that leishmaniasis is endemic in the study areas, which is useful to inform the health care policymakers and the governments to applied proper health and economic policies.

**Response:** Thank.

**Comment:** However, there are still several obvious problems in this manuscript : The abstract section of the manuscript is poor and unclear, especially in the methodology part, there is no description of a clear diagnostic methods, and even the meaning of 4.39% positive rate is not understand well.

**Response:** Thank you for pointing this out, hence, we have tried to keep up with your comments **L12-17; L91-94**.

**Comment:** It is too rough in the materials and methods, and there is not a clear diagnostic criteria, inclusion criteria or excluding standards. Therefore, the result will become unbelievable.

**Response:** From the record in addition to the clinical symptom and signs of the patients, at least one of the following leishmaniasis standard tests; Direct agglutination test (DAT), Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), and Leishmania Skin Test (LST) were performed to confirm the presence of the disease **L91-94**. Those recorded were taken from hospitals and medical centers all over the state.

**Comment:** The author emphasized the gender differences and annual differences of the positive rate, but whether these features have internal associations, the author should try to interpret them, otherwise these results will be only accidental phenomenon.

**Response:** Thank you for your valuable comments but we made a reasonable interpretation of these based on what we know in the discussion section **L148-192**.

**Comment:** In the discussion, the author mentioned the impact about new diagnostic standards and new intervention strategies on the results of the research, but the authors did not interpret specific content, which were considered to be very important for the differences in the results of the research.

**Response:** The content we are mentioned here is that the new intervention strategies introduced by WHO in Sudan we think it has a huge impact on the prevalence of the disease in the country in general and especially in the state.

**Comment:** All of that, the conclusion of this manuscript lacks new ideas compared with previous research, and has not discovered or proposed new disease characteristics and intervention strategies which should be a problem worth thinking about.

**Response:** Thank you very much for your comments, we appreciate your comment. Sudan needs long-term construction of national health, and a clear direction towards the health issues is of vital importance, we think such work can help and push our policymakers to adopt and apply new methods to deal with the neglected tropical zoonotic diseases. However, we made some changes to clarify our ideas, and incorporate them in discussions and conclusion parts **L193-208**.

**Science editor:**

**Comment:** The manuscript has been peer-reviewed, and it's ready for the first decision.

**Response:** Thank!

**Company editor-in-chief:**

**Comment:** I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, the full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. However, the quality of the English language of the manuscript does not meet the requirements of the journal. Before final acceptance, the author(s) must provide the English Language Certificate issued by a professional English language editing company. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor. In order to respect and protect the author's intellectual property rights and prevent others from misappropriating figures without the author's authorization or abusing figures without indicating the source, we will indicate the author's copyright for figures originally generated by the author, and if the author has used a figure published elsewhere or that is copyrighted, the author needs to be authorized by the previous publisher or the copyright holder and/or indicate the reference source and copyrights. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022. Authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content. Before final acceptance, when revising the manuscript, the author must supplement and improve the highlights of the latest cutting-edge research results, thereby further improving the content of the manuscript. To this end, authors are advised to apply a new tool, the RCA. RCA is an artificial intelligence technology-based open multidisciplinary citation analysis database. In it, upon obtaining search

results from the keywords entered by the author, "Impact Index Per Article" under "Ranked by" should be selected to find the latest highlight articles, which can then be used to further improve an article under preparation/peer-review/revision. Please visit our RCA database for more information at: <https://www.referencecitationanalysis.com/>

**Response:** Thank you for the suggestions. We have made the proposed changes in the manuscript.

### **Additional clarifications**

In addition to the above comments, all spelling and grammatical errors pointed out by the reviewers have been corrected. We look forward to hearing from you in due time regarding our submission and to respond to any further questions and comments you may have.

Sincerely, Correspondent author 15/06/2022

### **1 HOW DO AUTHORS CORRECTLY DEAL WITH THEIR PEER-REVIEW REPORT AND COMMENTS RAISED BY THE SCIENCE EDITOR? YES or NO**

1.1 Authors should reconsider the strengths and weaknesses of their manuscript. [YES]

1.2 Authors should carefully read the peer-review report. [YES]

1.3 Authors should carefully answer reviewers. [YES]

1.4 Authors should carefully format their manuscript. [YES]

1.5 Authors should carefully polish the language of their manuscript. [YES]

### **2 FIRST SECTION OF WRITING REQUIREMENTS YES or NO**

2.1 Title [ A Five-year retrospective hospital-based study on epidemiological data regarding human Leishmaniasis in West Kordofan state- Sudan]

2.2 Running title [Epidemiological of human Leishmaniasis in West Kordofan state- Sudan]

2.3 Authorship [Abdullah A. A, Musa Ahmed, Ahmed GADEED, Adam Eltayeb, Safa AHMED, Suad HAMAD, Mohammed Hussein]

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2.6 Author contributions [ **Abdullah A. A**, **Musa Ahmed**, **Ahmed GADEED**, **Adam Eltayeb**, **Safa AHMED**, **Suad HAMAD**, and **Mohammed Hussein** conceived and designed the study and directed implementation and data collection. **Abdullah A. A**, **Musa Ahmed**, and **Suad HAMAD** analyzed and interpreted the data, and drafted the manuscript.

**Abdullah A. A**, **Musa Ahmed**, **Ahmed GADEED**, **Adam Eltayeb**, **Safa AHMED**, **Suad HAMAD**, and **Mohammed Hussein** edited the manuscript for intellectual content and provided critical comments on the manuscript. All authors gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work.]

2.7 Supportive foundations [No]

2.8 Conflict-of-interest [The authors declared no potential competing of interest concerning the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article]

2.9 Open-Access [Yes]

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2.11 Abstract [YES]

2.12 Key words [ Epidemiology, Human Leishmaniasis, West Kordofan, Sudan]

2.13 Copyright [YES]

2.14		Core		tip		[YES]
2.15	Audio		core		tip	[YES]
3	SECOND SECTION OF WRITING REQUIREMENTS				YES or NO	
3.1		Main		text		[YES]
3.2			Biostatistics			[YES]
3.3			Units			[YES]
3.4			Illustrations			[YES]
3.5			Tables			[YES]
3.6	Notes	in	illustrations	and	tables	[YES]
3.7			Abbreviations			[YES]
3.8			Italics			[]
3.9	Article highlights [ YES]					
3.10			Acknowledgements			[No]
3.11			References			[YES]
4	ETHICS AND RELEVANT DOCUMENT(S) REQUIRED FOR Retrospective study					
	YES					
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	YES					