



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_26701
Title of the Manuscript:	DIARRHEA DISEASE: A CONCERN FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Type of the Article	Minireview paper

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	I have read the minireview Diarrhea disease: a concern for developing countries. Kindly refer to my suggestions below. 1.I found no statement on the objectives of this minireview: To whom it is address, what purpose or aim. I assume that reviews bring up the latest information and can be used as reference. Therefore, I would like to point out that there is no mention on hand washing with soap as a mean to prevent diarrhea disease and mortality. Kindly check references: Curtis V and Cairncross S. Lancet Infect Dis 2003; 3(5):275-281 and Luby SP et al. PLoS Med 2011; 8(6): e1001052. The authors should include a paragraph or two on the subject. 2. Prevention strategies hold the greatest potential to reduce burden of diarrheal disease; this MS largely lacks on this item. An important paragraph should be added on this subject. 3. Definitions are lacking. WHO definition of diarrhea "...three times in a period of 24 hours". The emphasis on the change in consistency rather than frequency is of importance. Line 53: "severe diarrhea is the most chronic stage" (?) severe diarrhea is not defined as a chronic stage. Kindly improve on the English language to properly define acute, prolonged, persistent, and chronic diarrhea and potential causes. This may allow for categorization and point to its associated management.	Thanks for the thorough work done. The issue of statement of objectives has been addressed. Author has seen to the definition of diarrhoea, etiology of diarrhoea and its classification. Factors responsible for prevalence of diarrhea in developing countries have been extensively discussed of which mothers/caregivers knowledge and management of diarrhea is inclusive. Author has highlighted all necessary suggestions under call for action. The use of ORS, probiotics, zinc and vitamin A supplement, treatment of diarrhea in children with HIV/AIDS, vaccination, breastfeeding, nutrition, sanitation, promotion of hand washing with soap, improving water quality and safe storage of household water, promoting policies etc all have been included in discussion of



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	4. Line 67: “despite better interventions that.....” what were those interventions? Explain. 5. lines 88-89: “this relationship requires great attention...” Meaning? 6. Lines 94-95: “the prevalence of diarrhea” Inadequate knowledge? Poor management? Are you sure that is correct? Prevalence is due to poor management? I think there are other better defined reasons for the prevalence of diarrhea. 7. No mention on agents that frequently are the causes of diarrhea. For instance, rotavirus accounts for up to 60% of diarrheal episodes in infants and toddlers; one important preventive measure is vaccination against rotavirus and measles. <i>Cryptosporidium</i> spp. has been found the second most important cause of diarrhea in 7 different developing countries. May I direct the authors to the GEMS report on Lancet 2013. Many times etiologic agents of diarrhea have geographical preferences and may be some data available from the authors country could shed some light on the etiology of diarrhea in their country. 5. If this minireview is meant to be of some use to interested readers, I would suggest a note on the home preparation of ORS. How much water to how much sugar and salt and precautions on its preparation and storage while administering it to the sick child, when access to a health center or a pharmacy are a problem. 6. Nothing is said on diarrhea in HIV positive children. How important, how to address it, etc. 7. Probiotics are known to stabilize the bacterial ecosystem, offer nutritional benefits and protect against pathogens. No mention of probiotics in this MS.	preventive strategies and management of diarrhea.
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	8. Line 137 on: this paragraph – and others - mentions the inadequate knowledge and beliefs of mothers in developing countries; probably more appropriate for an antropology study. Could it be improved by describing the correct and useful information on all aspects of diarrheal disease and its proper management, in different settings so that the directives can be of some use to the reader? 9. Pathogens are transmitted from the stools of one person to the mouth of another. As said before, the use of soap during hand washing was found to prevent 47% of diarrheal episodes in the particular study consulted and prevents one million deaths. 10. A prevention package, mentioned in several publications on the subject, is lacking in this minireview and preventive measures of diarrhea should be clearly listed and/or described. Don't forget policies to address persisting inequalities as compared to developed countries in regards to nutrition, sanitation and access to safe drinking water. 11. In the nutrition part, it should be emphasised the recommendation of including zinc tablets to the diet in the diarrheic child. The inclusion of Vitamin A is of importance, as is the education of the mother to continue breastfeeding and other supportive measures until the intestinal mucosa heals. 12. Call for action, line 162 is poor since prevention measures are lacking. "The focus of interventions....." Which are those interventions? By whom? Which actions? Nothing on vaccination, or breastfeeding, or vitamin A supplementation, or promotion of hand washing with soap, or improved water quality and safe storage of household water, etc. 13. In general, I found this minireview not up to date, it lacks in	
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	useful information, it is somehow superficial and is in need of a more purposeful thinking and writing. Again, a statement on objectives or the purpose or aim is missing, perhaps once this is described, the writers will have an easier time improving on the contents of this minireview.	
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments		