



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2013_IJTDH_7025
Title of the Manuscript:	Trends in the epidemiology of brucellosis in a highly burdened region in Egypt: A 16 year experience (1997-2012)

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
The aim of this study was an attempt to explain the reasons beyond the evolution and alteration of brucellosis epidemiology in a highly burdened rural region in Egypt over 16 years (1997-2012). The method section did not also show any explanation about any attempt for the alteration of brucellosis epidemiology. The results section did not also show about half of this section showing the clinical manifestations and treatment of all cases without focusing on the epidemiological data. In the conclusion, the author only must interpret that human and livestock brucellosis persisted in Northern Egypt across the study period albeit with a fluctuating incidence. All individuals know that the control of brucellosis depends on control of infection in the animals. The introduction of the text is o.k. but at the end of this section lines 51-55 should be deleted and the authors should indicate that this study provides base line epidemiological data to delineate challenges for brucellosis control in this identified area and provide a starting point for implementing targeted intervention measures. In lines 68-69, the authors noted that the proportion of brucellosis cases varied between 2-8%. If we assume this proportion, the incidence of brucellosis each year may increase to 3,200,000 far from the reported size of WHO that reported 500,000 cases. Explain this big difference. Lines 70-77, did not show anything related to the purpose of this study. Lines 86-93 did not show which variables were analyzed and tested by t-test, chi-square test, or Anova and etc. Lines 97-115, are o.k. 145-169 are not related to the aim of this study and all should be deleted. Lines 185 -205, should be deleted. Lines 322-361 are the complications of brucellosis and should be deleted. Some figures are not necessary and make the readers confused. The authors can select the figures that were related to their work. Some of the references are not related and should be deleted and please limit them up to 30	In the methods sections we described the steps for conducting the research, and we mentioned that we reviewed the hospital records over 16 years to track any changes in the epidemiology In the result section we talked about the disease pattern in animals and then in humans and described by figures the trends over the study period We considered this point in the conclusion Lines 51-55 were deleted Brucellosis cases diagnosed per year in this hospital varies between 300-200 cases as we mentioned. This means that they represent on average 2-4% of the total admitted PUO cases per year (average 6000-8000 cases). The percent reached 8% in years of epidemics. We should note that it is hospital based statistics and cannot be compared to nationwide figures reported by the WHO. This part represents the data collection method Normally it is not indicated the test per variable, in most of publications the p value is only mentioned. some tables are showing the variables and tests used. the RR and Chi square test was used for test difference in incidence in rural versus urban, males versus females, changes of titres per age group, ANOVA for mean titre over decades, t-test for changes in disease duration over years. These parts describes the clinical picture of evaluated cases and is related to our aim as we mentioned that a clinical overview of diagnosed cases was done. These parts describes the clinical picture of evaluated cases and is related to our aim as we mentioned that a clinical overview of diagnosed cases was done. Some figures are necessary of complete comprehension of the manuscript. Some less important figures are included as suppl. Figures only linked to the manuscript but not included in the body. We deleted references 41, 43, 44