

## **Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Exploring the Association Between Morgellons Disease and Lyme Disease: Identification of *Borrelia burgdorferi* in Morgellons Disease Patients.

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. In response to the final referee comment, we have added a paragraph in the Discussion section (highlighted in yellow) that emphasizes the presence of skin fibers as an important selection criterion for our MD patients.

As the referee points out, there are probably patients with primary delusional infestation, although as discussed in other studies this entity is extremely rare. By selecting our MD patients based on the presence of skin fibers, we believe that we have excluded patients with primary delusional disease, and this strengthens our study results.

My coauthors and I appreciate your consideration, and we hope that you now find the revised manuscript acceptable for expedited publication in BMC Dermatology.