Author’s response to reviews

Title: Molecular epidemiology of a hepatitis C virus epidemic in a haemodialysis unit: outbreak investigation and infection outcome.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir,

I have answered point by point the remarks of the 2 reviewers and corrected the paper accordingly. All the passage which contains completely new information or results are highlighted.

In particular:

- English grammar has been revised
- Figure 2 and 3 were omitted (advice of both reviewers)
- Methods and Results have been restructured (advice reviewer 1)
- Analysis has been re-done by a modified Poisson regression using robust variance as described by Zou (advice reviewer 2)
- Measure of association were given according to rate ratio, while before I provided odds ratios (advice of both reviewers)
- European outbreaks were acknowledge (advice reviewer 2)
- Case definition was expanded (advice of both reviewers)
- Infection control measure are defined more accurately (advice reviewer 2)
- Additional information on HCV testing and study design was provided as advised.
- Limitation was expanded to include the advices of both reviewers.

On overall the general conclusion and the main outcomes does not significantly differ from the previous version.

Please feel free to contact me for any further clarification and to carbon copy the present mail to both reviewers.

Regards

Simone Lanini