Author's response to reviews

Title: Comparison of different sampling techniques and of different culture methods for detection of Group B Streptococcus carriage in pregnant women

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Version: 2 Date: 13 September 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,
Sincere thanks for accepting our manuscript.
Please find below the answers of your comments

Sincerely

Mario Vaneechoutte
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Associate Editor's comments:

"I am happy to recommend publication of this paper provided the authors address a couple of issues. One is the issue of nomenclature of GBS. The authors have in some places written streptococcus in italics and with a capital S, but in other places they have used a lower case s and plain type. The more common format is to italicize the binomial name but if referring to a generic name, e.g. group B streptococcus, it should not be italicized. Please be consistent throughout the manuscript. Also if group B streptococcus is used as acronym as GBS, then it is no longer necessary to keep referring to it as group B streptococcus.

A: We have changed to ‘group B streptococcus’ and ‘group B streptococi’ throughout the manuscript. Still, we want to indicate that our designation was consistent. We wrote ‘group B Streptococcus’, in accordance to the writing of genus names, e.g., Lactobacillus and Staphylococcus, i.e., capitalized and italic, and we wrote ‘group B streptococci’ for the plural form, referring in general to streptococi, as is done as well for e.g., lactobacilli and staphylococci, i.e., not capitalized and not italicized.

The other is to put in a bit more information for the method section where they say: "The isolates were confirmed as S. agalactiae using the CAMP test on sheep blood agar and by molecular identification with tDNA-PCR [21], or by 16S rRNA gene sequence determination." Three methods are listed for confirmation, but it is not clear why three methods is used/needed and what algorithm is followed for this.

A: We have rewritten this paragraph as follows “The isolates were confirmed as S. agalactiae using the CAMP test on sheep blood agar. GBS colonies with discrepant results (either false positive on Chromagar or false negative on Granda medium) were identified using tDNA-PCR, as described previously (Bale et al. 2001) and 16S rRNA gene sequencing”.

We think this adds more information on tDNA-PCR and indicates better the algorithm that was followed."