Author's response to reviews

Title: The persisting burden of invasive pneumococcal disease in HIV patients

Authors:

   Reed A C Siemieniuk (reed.siemieniuk@gmail.com)
   Dan B Gregson (dan.gregson@cls.ab.ca)
   M John Gill (john.gill@albertahealthservices.ca)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: The persisting burden of invasive pneumococcal disease in HIV patients: an observational cohort study

Dear Editor:

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases. The editors of BMC Medicine have suggested that our manuscript may be well suited for your journal.

There has been no study to our knowledge evaluating the burden of IPD in HIV patients in the new era of HAART, active promotion of PPV-23, and widespread community immunization with PCV-7. We describe a high incidence of invasive pneumococcal disease in HIV patients, even in an era of active pneumococcal immunization programs and the widespread use of HAART. We also evaluate pneumococcal serotypes in the context of pneumococcal vaccination for efficacy, delineating the suboptimal protection provided by current vaccines.

This work highlights the ongoing enhanced susceptibility to pneumococcal disease in HIV patients, despite free and uncomplicated access to care in our region. Furthermore, we hope this work will strengthen enthusiasm for pneumococcal immunization and prevention programs in HIV patients and motivate further research and advocacy to reduce the burden of disease among HIV patients.

We hope that these findings will be of interest and value to editors, reviewers, the readership, and the community.

Yours Sincerely,

Reed Siemieniuk

Dan Gregson, MD, FRCPC

John Gill, MB, ChB, FRCPC