Author's response to reviews

Title: Daptomycin Therapy for Osteomyelitis: A Retrospective Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:

We would like to resubmit our manuscript “Daptomycin Therapy for Osteomyelitis: A Retrospective Study”, which summarizes the available information on the clinical outcome and safety of patients with non-hardware associated osteomyelitis treated with daptomycin. The following pages address how we have responded to and incorporated the comments suggested by the final reviewer. We would like you to consider publication of this manuscript in *BMC Infectious Diseases*.

All of the authors of this manuscript have fulfilled the criteria for authorship, reviewed and approved the paper, and attest to the integrity of the work submitted.

Please address all correspondence to me at the contact information noted below.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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Reviewer's report:
Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. While it is nice to have epidemiological and safety data regarding all the patients who fulfilled the set definition of osteomyelitis and were treated with daptomycin, the outcome data should only be evaluated for/limited to 18 patients (daptomycin monotherapy, osteomyelitis and gram positive organism on culture). Furthermore interesting would be to know how many of these 18 patients failed therapy, what were their characteristics, how many of these patients received further oral therapy etc.
   Since this article focuses exclusively on the use of daptomycin, it would be interesting to know the factors leading to success and failure associated with daptomycin therapy without being all the added confounding factors (multiple antibiotics, no organism available in 17 patients, surgery, duration of antibiotics, gram negative organisms etc.).
   • Author response: We have included additional data on this subgroup in the Results section. As only one patient failed from this group, we could not characterize the failures, but we have included some details on this case.

2. Based on above, discussion on dosage of daptomycin (4 vs. 6 mg/kg) and clinical outcomes cannot be interpreted in a meaningful way.
   • Author response: We believe we have adequately described the outcomes by dose and discussed them in relation to other publications.

3. Table 1: hematogenous spread in 12 patients, but blood culture positive only in 5 pts.?
   • Author response: We have verified that this accurately reflects the data that was reported by the investigators in the study. Since the investigators reported blood culture results for only this infection episode, it is possible that the blood cultures were positive earlier in the patient’s treatment course and not captured in the database.

4. Page 4, line 7: is this MSSA osteomyelitis?
   • Author response: This data relates to *S. aureus* regardless of methicillin susceptibility.

5. Page 4, line 16: the sentence appears incomplete.
• Author response: We have reviewed the paragraph and do not find an incomplete sentence.

6. **Page 4, line 21: This outcome data is in/for which infections?**
   • Author response: We have clarified that this referenced a previous analysis of osteomyelitis patients.