Author's response to reviews

Title: Serum cortisol predicts death and critical disease independently of CRB-65 score in community-acquired pneumonia: a prospective observational cohort study

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

Please find attached the manuscript “Serum cortisol predicts death and critical disease independently of CRB-65 score in community-acquired pneumonia: a prospective observational cohort study” for kind consideration for publication in “BMC Infectious Diseases”.

Community acquired pneumonia is the leading infectious disease in the western world and adequate high risk prediction is one of the major unresolved questions regarding research and management of this disease. Our study provides another step forward in risk stratification and thus disease management.

The manuscript has been submitted to “BMC Medicine”, and the editor suggested submission to “BMC Infectious Diseases”. As our study addresses daily practice of this important infectious disease, we believe it might be adequately published in “BMC Infectious Diseases”.

Two minor revisions have been suggested by the editor of “BMC Medicine”:

1. Please clarify in the “Author contributions” section of your manuscript whether all authors gave final approval of the manuscript. Please clarify whether “MP” is Peter Martus and should thus be listed as “PM”.
   - This typing error has been corrected.

2. Please include the relevant dates in the methods section, including periods of recruitment.
   - The information was added in the methods section.

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I herewith confirm, that all authors have seen and approved the manuscript and contributed significantly to the work. This manuscript has not been published elsewhere nor is it being considered for publication elsewhere.
The authors declare that they have no competing interests regarding this manuscript.

I am happy to answer any question and look forward to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

M. Kolditz, MD