Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) in a pandemic similar to the 2009 H1N1 in the United States

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for considering our manuscript (MS# 1439093907776260) entitled “Impact of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) in a pandemic similar to the 2009 H1N1 in the United States,” for publication in *BMC Infectious Disease*. We are resubmitting the manuscript including revisions based upon the reviewer’s comments.

All reviewer comments requiring a response (repeated verbatim in italics) are addressed below.

Reviewer: Professor Paolo Durando, MD, PhD


Thank you for this suggestion; we updated the “References” section as suggested.

2) Page 3. Line 16 from the top; “..., albeit not nearly as many as observed during the 1918 pandemic.”, please delete this sentence or make appropriate comment with respect to the current availability of antivirals, antibiotics and intensive care for the management of the patients affected with influenza and associated complications.

We followed the reviewer’s suggestion to delete this clause.

3) Section Discussion. Since the lethal synergism of the co-infection influenza and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is based on the sequence viral infection followed by bacterial pneumonia, and not the contrary, please, highlight that influenza vaccination remains the main tool to control the significant burden of influenza both during seasonal epidemics and in the case of a pandemic.

We revised the first paragraph of the Discussion to read: “High rates of bacterial coinfection in autopsy data from the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic suggest synergies between influenza and pneumococcal disease in pandemic conditions. While influenza vaccination remains the primary tool to control the significant burden of influenza during both seasonal epidemics and pandemic seasons, pneumococcal vaccination also has the potential to mitigate the impact of pandemic influenza.”


Note 7. Please remove “Sep 27”

Note 10. Please remove “Nov 3”
We implemented the suggested changes in the “References” section.

Editorial requirements:

1) Please include the funding source in Competing Interest section.

The following sentence was added to the start of the Competing Interest section: “This study was sponsored by Wyeth; which was acquired by Pfizer Inc. in 2009.”

Sincerely,

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