Author's response to reviews

Title: Incidence, Risk Factors, and Outcomes of Fusobacterium species Bacteremia

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Please find uploaded the revised version of this paper.

The paper has undergone extensive editing and revision to correct typographical and grammatical errors. The reference addition suggested by Dr. Mattila has been inserted. A sentence regarding the methodology has been added to clarify that "population rates for risk factors evaluated in this study were estimated or ascertained from local patient registry data and regional or Canadian survey data as previously described" with the appropriate references.

To answer Dr. Lee's concerns, we have further clarified in the paper that for 10 patients only basic demographic and microbiologic data were available and that complete data for risk factor analysis was available for 62 patients. We have clarified in our methods that repeat isolates of Fusobacterium spp. in the same year were not included for analysis to prevent biasing of incident rates. We do state in our methods that all persons with Fusobacterium bacteremia were included in the study. This would include persons with transient bacteremia. The term nosocomial has been changed to hospital-acquired.

We have used a definition for hospital acquired infection that includes the 48 hours post discharge from an acute health care facility. Those with contact with an acute care facility outside this range would be classified as health care associated. This is referenced in the paper. We have clarified the population at risk as defined above. There are no "controls" per say, but incident rates of risk factors in the patients with bacteremia are compared to those in the population (Calgary Zone). This has been clarified and referenced in the methods. Table 1 has been modified to hopefully be clearing in conduction with the methods. In Figure 3, the total incidence referred to that in the total population and as such is a average between males and females. I agree this can be confusing and the total bar has been removed from the graph as this is present in the other figure in any case. The minor essential revisions requested by Dr. Lee have also been...
We apologize for the issue in the reference formatting. During editing we failed to notice that our reference manager was not compliant with the journal requirements.