Author's response to reviews

Title: Klebsiella pneumonia septic shock and death in a patient with community-acquired Clostridium difficile colitis (CA-CDI):

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Author's response to reviews:

January 8, 2013

The Editor
BMC Infectious Diseases
BioMed Central
236 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8HB
United Kingdom

Dear Editor,

Re: Manuscript “Klebsiella pneumonia septic shock and death in a patient with community-acquired Clostridium difficile colitis (CA-CDI)”

We believe that the referred manuscript will provide useful information on community acquired C. difficile infection (CDI) and will help to dispel previous thought that CDI by this route is not likely to progress to serious clinical outcomes.

This community acquired CDI case is however unusual for the following reasons:

1) The uncharacteristic clinical outcomes including toxic megacolon, bowel perforation, and Gram negative shock and death. Notably, these clinical outcomes were more likely to occur among debilitated hospitalized individuals exposed to risk factors associated with patient management of other serious underlying clinical conditions. CDI is also more infrequent among young adults compared to aged persons in long-term facility care institutions.
2) The infecting strain of C. difficile (ribotype 087, North American pulsotype 12, PFGE macro-restriction fingerprint 0515) in this case was seen for the first time in Jamaica and also when compared to over 700 unique reference strains. This strain is closely related to the reference strain “ATCC 43255 (NAP12) with only a single band difference observed in the DNA fingerprints.

This case report will serve to alert the medical fraternity that community acquired CDI infection must be viewed with equal importance as hospital acquired infection, underscoring the need for early diagnosis and appropriate patient management. There is also a need for more molecular epidemiological studies to determine whether community acquired C. difficile strains are uniquely different or the same as those associated with hospital acquired CDI.

Sincerely,

Orville Heslop, PhD

Corresponding Author/Principal Investigator