Author's response to reviews

Title: Etiology and Outcome of Severe Community Acquired Pneumonia in Immunocompetent Adults.

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

We are extremely grateful to the reviewer for his constructive feedback on our manuscript.

All the changes made in the manuscript are highlighted RED.

Point by point reply to reviewer’s comments is as follows:

Reviewer 1:

1. In response to point 5 about healthcare associated pneumonia (HCAP), it appears the authors mean hospital acquired pneumonia. They have excluded patients hospitalised in the past four weeks, transferred from another facility and who developed pneumonia after 48 hours of hospitalisation or ICU admission. This is not HCAP. HCAP is defined by the ATS 2005 guidelines based on risk factors for MDR pathogens- hospitalisation in the past 3 months, nursing home residence, home wound care, family member with MDR pathogens etc – the authors have made an error here and should remove references to HCAP.

   A: We agree that we meant hospital-acquired pneumonia and not healthcare –associated pneumonia. We have modified the statement in the methods that ‘Patients who were transferred from another hospital and those who developed pneumonia after 48 hours of hospitalization or endotracheal intubation were excluded from the study to rule out hospital-acquired pneumonia’. Thank you for the correction.

   1. The information about how the patients were identified is in the reviewers comments/responses but has not been included in the manuscript- it should be included in my view.

   A: This has now been included in the Methods section as suggested by the reviewer.

   2. Small point, but please put the organism names in italics e.g under microbial etiology of patients

   A: This has been rectified as suggested by the reviewer.

Thank you.

Best regards,

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