Author's response to reviews

Title: Evolving epidemiology and antimicrobial resistance in spontaneous bacterial peritonitis: a two-year observational study

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Dear Sir,

We are pleased to send to you our article entitled “EVOLVING EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN SPONTANEOUS BACTERIAL PERITONITIS: a two-year observational study”, for publication in the *BMC Infectious Diseases*, if you agree to do so.

This article deals with the epidemiology of causative bacteria in bacterascites and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, with the associated therapeutic consequences. Indeed, current therapeutic recommendations are still based on therapeutic trials conducted at a time when the bacterial epidemiology was probably different.

Our two-year observational study on 268 positive ascitic fluid samples (out of 6,220 ascitic samples) confirms the growing prevalence of Gram positive pathogens, in particular enterococci, as well as the growing prevalence of bacteria with decreased susceptibility to antibiotics. It also underlines the high mortality rate observed in both spontaneous bacterial peritonitis and in bacterascites. It shows that current recommended empiric antibiotic therapy is effective on only 60% of the isolated pathogens, and that combinations of antibiotics with favorable pharmacokinetic profiles (such as cefotaxime and amoxicillin for example) might increase the spectrum of efficacy by 15 to 20%.

This article is submitted as an original article. It has been written in accordance with the instructions for authors of the *BMC Infectious Diseases*. All the authors have seen and approved the manuscript, which has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. I hope that it will meet with your approval.

Sincerely yours,

Lionel PIROTH

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