Author's response to reviews

Title: Burden of carbapenem-resistant organisms in the Frankfurt/Main Metropolitan Area in Germany 2012/2013 - first results and experiences after the introduction of legally mandated reporting

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Cherry,

Thank you for your additional comments on our manuscript. We have included the following changes in the document:

Figure 1: We have replaced the roman numerals indicating the months by full text in the figure legend.

Line 199: I have checked with Prof. Kempf, co-author of this article, who had been involved in the laboratory investigations in 2007 what was known about the patient. As indicated in both cited papers the patient was indeed repatriated to Germany from Serbia. However, we were not able to retrace his nationality. The text was rephrased.

Table 2: Median age and age range were added for Enterobacter. The spelling of country names was corrected. Since we do not have detailed information on the applied methodology of every laboratory in the region and we know that some of the laboratories “only” perform a PCR without sequencing we have rephrased the text according to your suggestion to “OXA-23-like”. Special thanks for this comment.

Table 1: The reporting criteria indeed oblige to report every carbapenemase detected by molecular methodology. This would hold true even if the phaenotypic tests would indicate sensitivity and the MICs were still below the breakpoints defined for resistance. However, laboratories, particularly the smaller ones, do not necessarily perform further investigations for carbapenemases in every case of a phaenotypically carbapenem-resistant bacterium for reasons of cost and effort. The laboratories are encouraged but not obliged to type carbapenem-resistant bacteria. As an incentive to obtain better epidemiological results, analyses are offered free of charge by the national reference center. A footnote was added in table 1 to illustrate this matter for the reader.
Kind regards,

Niels Kleinkauf