Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of chromID Strepto B as a screening media for Streptococcus agalactiae

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dr. Philippa Harris  
Executive Editor  

August 29, 2013  

Dear Dr. Philippa Harris  

On behalf of all the authors, I would like to ask you to consider our manuscript entitled "Evaluation of chromID Strepto B as a screening media for Streptococcus agalactiae." for publication as a research article.

This study investigated utility and sensitivity of chromID Strepto B (STRB) in 1425 Japanese population. The study design was approved by an ethics review board, and has been granted an exemption from requiring ethics approval by an ethics review board.

In this manuscript we provide the information about the utility and sensitivity of STRB and sheep blood agar as conventional agar in detecting Streptococcus agalactiae (GBS), that is a leading cause of neonatal sepsis in the developing world. We also described the advantage and disadvantage of STRB and conventional agar. Our findings suggest that STRB offers highly sensitivity without variability in interpretation between technicians, that can give technicians another choice when they are doing screening GBS. This can attribute to medical science.

This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All the authors have read the manuscript and have approved this submission. The authors report no conflicts of interest.

We changed two points that you mentioned.  
1. We stated in the Methods section (page 5, line 12) whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants.

<Changed version>
This study was approved by the research ethics committee (Number 264, October 2010) of the Japanese Red Cross Medical Center, Hiroo, Japan, and the research ethics committee granted exemption for this study, the need for informed consent was waived.

<Old version>
This study was approved and has been granted an exemption from requiring ethics approval by the research ethics committee (Number 264, October 2010) of the Red Cross Medical Center, Hiroo, Japan.

2. We declared in Competing Interests (page 10, line 7) that one of the authors works for Sysmex Corporation, which provided reagents for the study.

<Changed version>
DF works for Sysmex Corporation, which provided reagents for the study. Other authors declare that they have no competing interests.
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

No one should be acknowledged in Acknowledgements.

We hope this study will become beneficial to medical science.

Sincerely,

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