Author's response to reviews

Title: A simple and rapid approach for screening of SARS-coronavirus genotypes: an evaluation study

Authors:

Grace TY Chung (gracechung@cuhk.edu.hk)
Rossa WK Chiu (rossachiu@cuhk.edu.hk)
Jo LK Cheung (jo.lk.cheung@gmail.com)
Yongjie Jin (yoyo.jin@cuhk.edu.hk)
Stephen SC Chim (sschim@cuhk.edu.hk)
Paul KS Chan (paulkschan@cuhk.edu.hk)
Dennis YM Lo (loym@cuhk.edu.hk)

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Dear Sir/Madam

Re: BMC Infectious Diseases MS: 1405039996716353 - A simple and rapid approach for screening of SARS-coronavirus genotypes: an evaluation study

Thank you for your email dated August 19, 2005, informing us of the reviewer's comments in relation to the above captioned manuscript. We have considered the reviewer's comments and made amendments accordingly. The following is a point-by-point account of our response.

1. As per the reviewer's suggestion, to highlight that the approach developed in the study is useful mainly when there is prior data about the sequence variation of a particular pathogen, we have added the sentence (Page 7, line 9) "Direct sequencing is still the gold standard for identifying new sequence variations when new agents of infectious disease continue to emerge and old ones reemerge. Once the variations have been identified, allelic discrimination assay is more efficient and suitable for large-scale population investigations."

2. All the samples used in the study are isolates obtained from viral cultures. This information is mentioned on Page 4, second paragraph, line 2. We have now also clarified this in the title for Table 2.

3. On page 3, line 4 from the bottom, we have deleted the term "cost effective" as suggested.

4. We have removed references 17-19 and replaced them with publications regarding genotyping of bovine viral diarrhea virus (new ref. 17), varicella-zoster virus (new ref. 18) and herpes simplex virus (new ref. 19) using Taqman assay.

We sincerely hope that by these amendments, the revised manuscript would meet the approval for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Thank you for your kind assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Y.M. Dennis Lo
Professor of Chemical Pathology

The Chinese University of Hong Kong