Author's response to reviews

Title: Epidemiological Characteristics of Nosocomial Infection in a Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU), South Korea

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Version: 8 Date: 22 June 2006

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Author’s report to reviewer’s comments

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1. Reviewer : Mark F Fredric

1) Definition

Incidence density : change to “per 1000 patient days” in abstract, statistical analysis, and table 3

2) Spelling

- page 4, page 7 : changed
- page 12 : changed to “Factors associated with the development of NI were birth weight, gestational age and Apgar score at 1min or 5min”

3) Discussion

(1) “it may be an artifact of ambiguity of diagnosis and intense surveillance” changed to “it may be an artifact due to the ambiguity of diagnosis and intense surveillance.

It was not easy to make a diagnosis of conjunctivitis (EKC) because the sign and symptoms of them were similar to the eye infections. And there were a few small sized epidemics of EKCs, so the researchers had tendency to make a diagnosis as EKCs for the infections occurred in the eyes.
There seems to be a misunderstanding. The eye infections are also nosocomial infections but they should be differentiated from conjunctivitis. That is, they are different infections each others.

Chaged to “because this study used a retrospective design, the incidences of some infections such as oral cavity infections and venous infections could be underestimated. Oral cavity infections couldn’t be diagnosed when there were no records or documents about the occurrences in the charts. According to the clinical experience of researchers, oral cavity infections were common in this NICU. Nonetheless, there were some cases in which the signs and symptoms or characteristics of oral cavity were not mentioned in their charts and there were others that oral thrush had been treated with Gentian violet, but no reports on the signs and symptoms or laboratory results. In these cases we couldn’t make a diagnosis of oral cavity infections. This is true of venous infections.”
2. **Reviewer : Kevin Laupland**

We added concluding sentences in the end of the discussion.

“The distribution of pathogens and risk factors of nosocomial infection in NICU were similar to previous studies. The rate of conjunctivitis was very high compared to the previous studies, but one of the recent studies showed the same result. Further studies are needed to investigate the trend of the incidence of conjunctivitis and related factors.”