Author's response to reviews

Title: A Prospective Study Comparing Quantitative Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Polymerase Chain Reaction in Plasma and pp65 Antigenemia Assay in Monitoring Patients after Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
To the Editor,
BMC Infectious Diseases

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Dear Editor,
Enclosed please find our revised manuscript in light of the reviewers' and editorial comments.
We provide a cover letter giving a point-by-point response to the concerns.
I look forward to hear from you soon, and I thank you in advance for your kind attention.

Best regards

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In response to the Editor

Include the full name of the ethics committee that approved the study and whether it was verbal or written consent that was obtained.

Response: The ethic Committee of S.Eugenio Hospital, Tor Vergata University, Rome approved the study and an informed written consent was received from each patient

- In the abstract write 'CMV' out in full the first time it is mentioned.

Response: see the abstract

Reviewer: Angela Caliendo
Reviewer's report:
General
1) Page 8, line 12. Define alternative - ? allogeneic
Response: alternative has been modified in unrelated
2) Page 9, line 27. ? BK virus leucoencephalitis or JC virus leucoencephalitis.
Response: JC virus leucoencephalitis.
3) Page 10, line 27. Reword last sentence of paragraph.
Response: Our study was not designed to compare plasma PCR vs pp65 Ag as the best parameter for starting pre-emptive therapy; therefore, no conclusions can be made on the clinical sensitivity of PCR assay, since pre-emptive therapy was based on pp65 Ag assay.
4) Page 11, line 22. The previous sentence states that Ag is more sensitive than plasma PCR. The next sentence has Ag with a sensitivity of 62% vs. plasma PCR. Which is correct? Is the sensitivity 62% vs PBL PCR? Please clarify.
Response: In the study by Bøeckh et al (25) the sensitivity of pp65 AG was 62% versus plasma PCR.
5) Page 12, line 4. Neither treatment failure nor antiviral resistance are not consistent with the clinical course described.
Response: “We have not a definitive explanation for this phenomenon”.

Reviewer's report
Reviewer: Fausto Baldanti
Reviewer's report:
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. page 7, 1st line "..two for disease progression.." indicate disease.
Response: two for progression of acute myeloid leukemia and colon carcinoma, respectively

2. page 7, indicate r-e2 value.
Response: r-e2 values are reported on page 7 and on figure legend

3. page 9, the paper is dealing with quantitation of CMV pp65 and DNA. Please detail variation of CMV load in these three pts avoiding generic descriptive terms.
Response: quantitation of CMV pp65 and DNA has been added for each patient.

4. English requires attention, in particular the amended paras of the manuscript which appear also scattered with mispelled words.
Response: the misspelled words have been modified.