Author's response to reviews

Title: Microbiology of airway disease in a cohort of patients with Cystic Fibrosis

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The Biomed Central Editorial Team

Object: MS 1562079042640021- Microbiology of airway disease in a cohort of patients with Cystic Fibrosis (Dr. Antonietta Lambiase et al).

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal.

We have reviewed the above manuscript according to your reviewer's comments.

Reviewer: Itzhak Brook

- MATERIALS AND METHODS
  
  Study design
  On basis of reviewer's indications, in this sub-section Authors indicate the definition of "chronic colonization" and how many cultures over what period was needed. Authors have included this sentence: "Chronic PA infection was defined as persistent presence of three PA positive cultures for at least 6 consecutive months [12]. Similarly, chronic pulmonary colonization by Bcc and other emergent pathogens was defined." For this definition, the reference is n°12 (Frederiksen B, Koch C, Høiby N.: Changing epidemiology of Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection in Danish Cystic Fibrosis patients (1974-1995). Pediatr Pulmonol 1999; 28: 159-166)

- RESULTS
  
  On basis of indications of reviewer, this paragraph has been elaborated again. In this section, Authors have described and explained data in tables 1 and 2. Authors have included this sentence "In table 1 total number of isolates, number and percentage of multiresistant strains for each type of bacteria are reported. Drug-multiresistance was
found in 30 chronically PA infected patients. Multiresistant Bcc strains were found in 18 patients, all chronically infected.

Susceptibility studies of multidrug-resistant pathogens over the study period are summarized in Table 2. Beta-lactam antibiotics showed moderate activity in vitro against multiresistant bacteria of all species: only ceftazidime seems to be the most efficacious antibiotic against these types of bacteria (45.4%, 16.6%, 55.7% respectively against Bcc, PA and AX) Therefore, ceftazidime was the most active antibiotic against Bcc, while imipenem was the most active in vitro against AX. Aminoglycosides are not very active against the bacterial strains isolated and quinolones are relatively inactive against multiresistant strains.

- **LEGEND OF TABLE 2**
  On basis of indications of reviewer, the number in this table have been clearly defined. Authors have modified the legend and this now is "Percentage of Gram-negative isolated strains resistant to antibiotics tested."

- **REFERENCE OF DISCUSSION**
  On basis of indications of reviewer, in this section Authors have provided to insertion of reference of data not shown. Now this reference is n° 18 (Jones AM, Dodd ME, Govan JRW, Barcus V, Doherty CJ, Morris J, Webb AK. Burkholderia cenocepacia and Burkholderia multivorans: influence on survival in Cystic Fibrosis. *Thorax* 2004; 59: 948-51)