Author's response to reviews

Title: A retrospective study of central nervous system shunt infections diagnosed in a university hospital during a 4-year period

Authors:

Huseyin Turgut (huturgut@yahoo.com)
Suzan Sacar (suzansacar@yahoo.com)
Semra Toprak (drsemratoprak@hotmail.com)
Bayram Cirak (bayramcirak@yahoo.com)
Erdal Coskun (ercoskun@yahoo.com)
Ozlem Yilmaz (ozlem-23@mynet.com)
Koray Tekin (koraytekin@hotmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We would like to submit a revised manuscript entitled “A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM SHUNT INFECTIONS DIAGNOSED IN A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL DURING A 4-YEAR PERIOD” for possible publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

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Suzan Sacar, MD - Corresponding author

Description of the changes made on manuscript

In the tables the words “Post men. hydroceph.” were replaced by “Post meningitic hydrocephalus”; the words “Cong. hydrocephalus/MM” were replaced by “Congenital hydrocephalus/myelomeningocele”.

pp 4 The sentence which was starting from line 1, “Ventriculoperitoneal shunts are used for intracranial pressure monitoring and temporary CSF drainage.” were replaced by the sentence “Ventriculoperitoneal shunts are used for maintaining a specific intracranial pressure and generally permanent, but on occasion temporary CSF drainage.”.

pp 4 line 5 The words “ventriculostomy related” were deleted before words “CSF infection” and the words “secondary to ventriculostomy, shunt insertions” were added after the words “CSF infection”.

pp 4 line 17 The words “an extraexpertise” were replaced with the words “a subspecialty”.

pp 4 line 18 The word “were” was added after the word “insertions”.

A sentence “While CSF infections within the initial 30 days of ventricular catheter insertion were considered to be early, the infections which occur 30 days after the insertion were considered as late.” was added the methods section.

The words “California, USA” were inserted after the word “Medtronic”.

The word “were” was inserted after the word “patients” and the word “at” was replaced with the word “in”.

A sentence “In our study group, while CSF infections of 13 patients were seen in the early period, infections of remaining six patients were seen in the late period.” was added on results section.

During the study, *Acinetobacter* has been isolated in both CSF and tracheal aspirates simultaneously in two patients. Similarly, *E. coli* in two patients and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in one patient have been isolated in both urine and CSF.” were added on results section.

The word “closed” was inserted after the words “congenital hydrocephalus-”.

The intracranial abscess was localized on supratentorial region and the causative microorganism was not identified.” was added on results section.

It can be speculated that, simultaneous infections in other parts of the body which were caused by the same gram negative microorganisms may be responsible for that higher incidence.” was added on results section.

The word “sp.” was replaced with the word “species”

The word “firstly,” was deleted.

The part of sentence “should be kept in place unless a change is clinically indicated; and secondly, that the catheter should be removed as soon as it is no longer clinically indicated.” were replaced by the sentence “should not be replaced unless it is clinically demonstrated such as CSF shunt dysfunction etc.”.

A sentence “In case of a catheter infection, it is both necessary to remove the shunt and commence the systemic antibiotic treatment.” was added the conclusion.
pp10 line 2 The word “also” was inserted after the word “should”.

pp 10 line 2 The words “in a case of a shunt infection” were deleted.

Table 1 line 9 The word “Other” was replaced by “Others”.