Author’s response to reviews

Title: Failure of recombinant factor VIIa in a patient with severe polymicrobial sepsis and postoperative uncontrolled intraabdominal bleeding

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Author’s response to reviews:

To the Editors/Reviewers

of BMC Infectious Diseases

Basel, 3.1.07

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

Find enclosed the revised version of our manuscript "Failure of recombinant factor VIIa in a patient with severe polymicrobial sepsis and postoperative uncontrolled intraabdominal bleeding" with number MS 1054361595119854 to "BMC Infectious Diseases". We would like to thank the reviewers for their helpful and interesting comments.

The following changes were made:

Reviewer 1 (Christian Wiedermann)

Discretionary revisions:

- We added a paragraph, outlining possible adverse events with the administration of rFVIIa (ref 20-21) (page 8, line 13-19).

- We shortened conclusion section of the abstract and included additional patient information in the abstract, assuming the comment concerned this section (page 2).

Reviewer 2 (Anne-Cornelie de Pont):
Major compulsory revisions:

- Ad 1: On page 5 we inserted the values of PT (page 5, line 13 and 25).

- Ad 2: We specified factors that negatively influence the efficacy of rFVIIa (especially PT, hyperfibrinolysis and acidosis) and added the values of the reported patient (page 7, line 15-21).

- Ad 3: We included (in the case report part, page 5, line 16-19) a statement why metformin was not the cause of the metabolic (lactate) acidosis, but shock and renal failure were causal.

- Ad 4: We underlined the importance of acidosis in the ineffectiveness of rFVIIa (ref. 13) and explained in more detail why rFVIIa might have failed in our patient (page 7, line 4-9).

- Ad 5: We introduced (in the discussion part) a section with discussion of the use of rFVIIa in patients with DIC (ref 15-18). In this section we also compare our unsuccessful case with successful case reports in literature (page 7, line 22-26, page 8, line 1-6).

- Ad 6: We omitted table 1 and 2 because they do not provide additional information. Figure 1 remained in the manuscript because we think it is helpful for illustrating the time line of the administration of rFVIIa and the resulting changes in aPTT and pH. It additionally allows the comparison with other case studies.

Minor essential revisions:

- Ad 1: We added the proposed literature concerning the first use of rFVIIa in bleeding patients with haemophilia A and B inhibitors against factor VIII and IX (ref 1-3) (page 3, line 1-2).

- Ad 2: The references at the end of the first segment on page 3 are cited separately (ref 7-10).

- Ad 3: Orthotropic was corrected to orthotopic (page 3, line 21).

- Ad 4: The website for swiss icu and Novoseven was added in the references (ref 5).

We were happy to learn from the review of our manuscript and hope that our revised paper has adequately addressed the issues raised by the referees and is suitable for publication in BMC infectious diseases.

Yours faithfully

Anna Conen, MD