Author’s response to reviews

Title: Serum macrophage migration inhibitory factor reflects adrenal function in hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis in septic patients: an observational study

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
November 24, 2009  
Anastasios Koutsos, PhD.  
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Serum macrophage migration inhibitory factor reflects adrenal function in hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis in septic patients: an observational study  
Takashi Miyauchi, Ryosuke Tsuruta, Motoki Fujita, Tadashi Kaneko, Shunji Kasaoka and Tsuyoshi Maekawa  

Dear Dr. Koutsos;  

Thank you very much for your reviewing our manuscript and we revised based on reviewers’ comments.  
We response the comments as follows;  

Referee 2  
The first paragraph could be rephrased: it sounds as polymixin B trial having strong support than other cited trials.  

We altered this sentence (the last sentence of first paragraph in page 4).  

The figure 1 citation in last paragraph of page 5 could be placed before the last phrase, since this information (none of the patients …) is not present in figure 1.  

We changed the citation of “figure 1” as you suggested.  

Referee 1  
MAJOR COMMENTS  
• The background section is very illustrative  

• In the methods section / statistics, was a goodness-of-fit model used in order to test the normality of data?  

We checked for normality of distributions of all the parameters and found that some of them were not regarded as normal. Therefore, for the sake of uniformity of statistical testing, we rather employed non-parametric tests as a whole: Mann-Whitney test for continuous variables (age, PT ratio, etc) and the chi-square test for the binary variables (gender, survival state, etc).  
We again consulted medical statistician about the results of this study. We added his name in acknowledgements.  

• In the discussion, I really understood the physiological relevance and clinical potential, however, I would like to better understand the current clinical relevance of the study finding, that is, is the MIF dosage a simple one? Is it feasible in routine labs?  

We added a paragraph in page 11 in which clinical relevance of MIF measurement
was written.

MINOR COMMENTS
• There are some English language errors to be corrected

This manuscript was again checked by a native speaker of English. We changed some words and sentences.

We are looking forward to publishing our manuscript in your journal.

Sincerely,

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