Author's response to reviews

Title: Successful reduction of hospital-acquired methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in a urology ward: a 10-year study

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Author's response to reviews:

Dr. Hayley Henderson
Executive Editor, BMC Urology

Title: “Successful reduction of hospital-acquired methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in a urology ward: an 11-year trial"

Dear Dr. Hayley Henderson,

Thank you very much for giving us an opportunity to revise our original manuscript. The provided comments were helpful and constructive. We have corrected our manuscript according to the points.

Please find the revised manuscript, which we hope you will find acceptable for publication in BMC Urology. Thank you in advance for considering our manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

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The point-by-point response to the Editorial concerns:
Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript. Your comments were helpful and constructive. We have corrected our manuscript according to the points brought up. We have outlined these points below.

1. Consent
Since you prospectively assigned patients to your study, can you please confirm in the Methods whether you obtained consent from each patient? If not, can you please provide details about this and confirm whether the ethical committee waived the requirement for patient consent. Please note that we may request documentary evidence from the ethical committee regarding this.

According to your comments, we explain our study more precisely. In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, we have introduced a stepwise infection control strategy into daily clinical practice since 2001. After receiving approval by the institutional review board, we analyzed impact of the strategy on the incidence of MRSA retrospectively. We have added the above sentences in the methods section (line 6 - 10, page 7 in the revised manuscript)

2. Length of Study
You state that this is an 11 year study; however, your study was conducted between 2000 and 2010. You also state that the stepwise infection control strategy commenced in 2001 - which would make this a 9 year study. Can you please provide further details regarding this. What was the official end-point of the study?

Thank you for a constructive proposition. After investigating the prevalence of MRSA in 2000, we have introduced a stepwise infection control strategy in the urology ward in 2001. At the end of 2010, we analyzed impact of the strategy on the incidence of MRSA retrospectively. The period when we analyzed the incidence of MRSA is 11 years. And the period of intervention is 10 years, from 2001 to 2010. We changed the length of study into “a 10-year study”.

3. Routine Care
Can you please confirm in the Methods section whether all changes implemented in the stepwise strategy were part of standard routine care, adhering to official Hospital policy and guidelines.

In addition to the official Hospital policy and guidelines that mentioned in the methods section(line 14, page 7- line 4, page 8 in the revised manuscript), in the urology ward, we have introduced stepwise infection control strategy.

We added the sentence in the methods section (line 12-15, page 7 in the revised manuscript) “After investigating the prevalence of MRSA in 2000, we have introduced stepwise infection control strategy in the urology ward since 2001, in addition to the following hospital-wide standard precautions for infection control measures..”
4. Title
We suggest that you remove the word 'trial' from the title and replace this with 'study'.

Thank you for a constructive proposition. According to your comments, we have removed the word 'trial' from the title and replace this with 'study'.

5. Acknowledgements
According to your comments, we have added the sentences in the acknowledgements section. “The authors thank Michio Hagiwara, department of clinical laboratory Tokyo Medical and Dental University Hospital for their contribution to acquisition of data.”