Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence, Putative Virulence Factors and Antimicrobial Susceptibility of Enterococcus faecalis Isolates from Patients with Dental Diseases

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Damian Marlee
Assistant Editor
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Prevalence, Virulence Factors and Antimicrobial Susceptibility of
Enterococcus faecalis Isolates from Patients with Dental Diseases
Randa Salah, Najla Dar Odeh, Osama Abu-Hammad and Asem A Shehabi

Thank you for kind response to our manuscript. Herewith, we include our
answers to questions and comments of the 3 reviewers of our manuscript:

First-Reviewer: Mehmet Baysallar
1. E. faecalis ATCC 29212 was used as positive control throughout the
study, see page 7 and 8. In addition, we used other DNA preparations as
positive control for for esp gene (page 9). Please the new attached figure
1.
2. 1 Kb/ 100bp Ladder has been used as size marker ( Figure 1).
3. Gel electrophoresis image has been now included
4. DNA of E. faecalis has been prepared exactly as reported by Creti et
al.,2004 (Ref. 15).
5. Other minor corrections have been done.

Second- Reviewer Johannes Hueber
1. Putative virulence factors has been introduced in the title of the
manuscript and the text .
2. The mouth rinse has been commonly used method to detect the
presence of E. faecalis in oral samples of healthy control and patients and
has proved to be acceptable in such studies(Reference 14 )
3. Standard deviations of the age groups has been added.
4. It is true, the result susceptibility of E. faecalis isolates to imipenem
can't be correct, therefore we have decided to delete it from the table.
5. We have included and discussed susceptibility of E. faecalis in some
details because we feel that dentists must be aware about the problem of
antibiotic resistance ( see our new published paper: Dar-Odeh N S et al.,
An analysis of therapeutic, adult antibiotic prescriptions issued by
Third-Reviewer: Marcello Riggio

1. We feel that data on antimicrobial resistance of E. faecalis is important since there is increased emergence of Vancomycin-R in this species.
2. It is true that number of positive E. faecalis is limited to 8 isolates, but it important to know that this organism is not common in human oral cavities in most studies ( references 1,4,5).
3. It is difficult to compare putative virulence factor with antimicrobial resistance of E. faecalis since all isolates were positive for ace, efaA genes and only to isolates were positive for cylA and these two have the same virulence profiles and susceptibility test as the other 6 isolates.
4. E. faecalis has been detected by direct PCR using the sediment of the oral rinse specimens as reported in material and methods ( page 7).
5. We hope that the language of the manuscript can be now accepted.

Best regards,

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