Author’s response to reviews

Title: Risk stratification by abbMEDS and CURB-65 in relation to treatment and disposition of the septic patient at the emergency department: a cohort study

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Dear Dr. G Mangiameli,

Please consider our manuscript “Risk Stratification by abbMEDS and CURB-65 in Relation to Treatment and Disposition of the Septic Patient at the Emergency Department: a cohort study”, for publication as Original Research article in the BMC Emergency Medicine.

We investigated whether the abbMEDS (abbreviated Mortality in Emergency Department Sepsis) and the CURB-65 (Confusion, Urea, Respiration, Blood pressure, Age > 65 years) could support clinical decisions made by physicians in sepsis patients at the Emergency Department (ED). This topic has never been studied before in patients with sepsis.

We included 725 sepsis patients at the ED and investigated the relationship between the three risk categories of the two scores and both antibiotic treatment and disposition (admission to the hospital, MCU/ICU).

We found that the abbMEDS matches current clinical decisions in sepsis patients concerning antibiotic treatment and disposition well, while this is less the case for the CURB-65. Therefore, the abbMEDS may be able not only to provide risk stratification, but also to support clinical decision-making.

Part of our patients have been included in another study in which we investigated which sepsis patients were transported by ambulance (reference 13 of our manuscript). The authors have no conflict of interest to declare. All authors of the research paper have participated in the writing of the manuscript, in the planning, execution or analysis of the study and have read and approved the final version submitted. The contents of this manuscript are not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Sincerely,

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