Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical and microbiological characteristics of bloodstream infections due to AmpC beta-lactamase producing Enterobacteriaceae: An active surveillance cohort in a large centralized Canadian region.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Harris;

Re: Clinical and microbiological characteristics of bloodstream infections due to AmpC beta-lactamase producing Enterobacteriaceae: An active surveillance cohort in a large centralized Canadian region.

Thank you for the opportunity to resubmit a second revised version for consideration for publication in *BMC Infectious Diseases*. Please find below an itemized list of responses to each of the Reviewers comments. Within this itemized list, we cite each comment verbatim in bold type followed by our response.

We hope that you will find this version suitable for publication in *BMC Infectious Diseases*, and look forward to your response.

Vikas P. Chaubey
Johann D. D. Pitout
Bruce Dalton
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Response to Reviewers

Reviewer: Yasufumi Matsumura

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Line 287. Please remove a conclusion of avoiding oxyimino-cephalosporin for previous treatment history, as I suggested before and the authors stated to do in the response letter.

This line has been removed. I apologize for not having removed it after the first round of revisions.

Discretionary Revisions

2. The study design.

The authors answered a question regarding the detection of chromosomal AmpC and they cannot change the design due to the laboratory policy for not reporting beta-lactams for potential AmpC producers. I agree with the authors and their answer sounds appropriate. However, the readers who do not know Calgary Laboratory practice would confuse and the design may seem a little bit inappropriate (exactly, this study investigated “potential” AmpC-producuing Enterobacteriaceae isolates). Thus, please consider moving the description of Calgary Laboratory Practice (lines 251 to 257) and the authors’ response to my question to Background section. Please also consider to include the meaning of targeting potential AmpC-producers, in the main objectives (lines 92-95).

We have added several lines to the manuscript to address the above concerns. These lines are highlighted in yellow within the manuscript.

Lines 95-97 have been added to draw attention to our objective to determine whether B-lactam antibiotics are associated with a higher mortality if used in the treatment of AmpC producing Enterobacteriaceae.

Lines 141-143 have been added to emphasize that the included organisms may possess the AmpC β-lactamase and that we did not carry out additional testing for the presence or inducibility of the AmpC gene.

Line 151-154 emphasizes the Calgary Laboratory’s reporting practices for antimicrobial susceptibilities of potential AmpC producing organisms.

Lines 286-290 stresses that the organisms included in our study are only potential AmpC producers. This point is added to the discussion as a limitation of our study.
Reviewer: Zeina Kanafani

No further comments.

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript.