Author's response to reviews

Title: Infectious endocarditis caused by Helcococcus kunzii in a vascular patient: a case report and literature review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir,

On behalf of all the authors, I would like to ask you to consider our manuscript entitled: “Infectious endocarditis caused by Helcococcus kunzii in a vascular patient and review of literature” for publication in “BMC Infectious Diseases” as a case report.

*Helcococcus kunzii* is a facultative anaerobic bacterium that was initially described in 1993 by Collins *et al.* This microorganism was first considered to be part of the normal flora of the human skin, in particular of lower extremities. Human infections caused by *H. kunzii* remain rare with only a few cases published in the pubmed database.

To the best of our knowledge, we describe here the first known case of infectious endocarditis caused by *H. kunzii* in a vascular patient successfully treated by a medico-surgical approach. This report along with previous data found in the literature emphasizes the invasive potential of this bacterial species as an opportunistic pathogen, in particular for patient with polyvascular diseases. MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry and 16S rDNA sequencing are reliable tools for *H. kunzii* identification. Finally, we also sequenced in this work *H. kunzii* type strain 103932T CIP and deposited in the Genbank under accession number KM403387. Interestingly, we noticed a 14 base difference between our 16S rDNA sequence and the original sequence deposited by Collins *et al.* under Genbank accession number X69837. Hopefully, the spread of next generation sequencing tools would lead to a more accurate classification of clinical strain based on the whole genome sequence.

This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All the authors have read the manuscript and have approved this submission. The authors report no conflicts of interest.

I would be very grateful if you could consider our article for publication in your journal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

R. Lotte