Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical and Microbiological Characteristics of Purulent and Non-purulent Cellulitis in Taiwanese Adults in the Era of CA-MRSA

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Dear Editor, BMC Infectious Diseases

Please find enclosed our manuscript titled “Clinical and Microbiological Characteristics of Purulent and Non-purulent Cellulitis in Taiwanese Adults in the Era of CA-MRSA”, which we would like to submit for publication as a research article in the BMC Infectious Diseases.

Cellulitis is a frequently occurring infection of the dermis and subcutaneous tissues, and is often caused by Staphylococcus and Streptococcus species. However, in most cases, an absence of culturable material makes identifying the etiological agent very difficult, meaning that empirical therapy is necessary. A greater understanding of the risk factors for purulent versus non-purulent cellulitis, as well as of the types of organisms most frequently associated with these two groups, will allow a more tailored approach to empirical therapy.

We performed a retrospective study of cellulitis in hospitalized adults in Taiwan, with particular emphasis on the contribution of community-acquired methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (CA-MRSA). Our findings confirmed differences in the etiology and epidemiology of purulent and non-purulent cellulitis cases. Purulent infections were more frequently caused by MRSA/CA-MRSA, more often associated with a wound or with surgery, and required a longer hospital stay and antibiotic regimen. Non-purulent infections were frequently caused by β-hemolytic streptococci rather than MRSA.

The findings described in this study are important for understanding the epidemiology and etiology of cellulitis in Taiwan. The differences between the two types of infection indicate that empirical therapies should be tailored to each of the two presentations, and that MRSA-targeting drugs are not necessarily relevant for the treatment of non-purulent infections. We feel that these findings will be of interest to the readers of the BMC Infectious Diseases from both a clinical and research perspective, as they will be useful for developing international guidelines for treating cellulitis.

We confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with submission to the BMC Infectious Diseases. The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.
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