Author's response to reviews

Title: The influence of Streptococcus pneumoniae nasopharyngeal colonization on the clinical outcome of the respiratory tract infections in preschool children

Authors:

Sigita Petraitiene (siga.petraitiene@gmail.com)
Tomas Alasevicius (t.alasevicius@gmail.com)
Indre Staceviciene (indre.cicenaite@gmail.com)
Daiva Vaiciuniene (daiva.vaiciuniene@vuvl.lt)
Tomas Kacergius (tomas.kacergius@mf.vu.lt)
Vytautas Usonis (vytautas.usonis@mf.vu.lt)

Version: 2
Date: 28 January 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover letter

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled "The influence of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* nasopharyngeal colonization on the clinical outcome of the respiratory tract infections in preschool children" by Petraitienė et al. which we would like to submit for publication as a research article to the BMC Infectious Diseases.

*Streptococcus pneumoniae* (SPn) is an important pathogen causing a variety of clinical manifestations. The effects of SPn nasopharyngeal colonization on respiratory tract infections are poorly studied. We have evaluated the association of SPn colonization with features of respiratory tract infections. Our study is significant because it showed that SPn nasopharyngeal colonization has a negative impact on the course of respiratory tract infection, is associated and may be responsible for higher frequencies of bronchitis, pneumonia, acute otitis media, sinusitis and antibacterial treatment in the country before introduction of universal infant vaccination with conjugated pneumococcal vaccine.

We believe our findings would appeal to the readership of BMC Infectious Diseases. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to the BMC Infectious Diseases. Also we confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal.

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors have conceived and designed the study, participated in the data collection, statistical analysis, and interpretation of the data and writing of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

The following changes has been done in response to the Pre review revision prior to editorial assessment:

Comment: 1. Conclusions - This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance. Summary illustrations may be included.

Response: Done. See lines 227-232 changed

Comment: Please ensure that your manuscript contains any required statements regarding ethical approval and consent from patients/participants; adheres to any relevant standards.

Response: Done. See line 63-64: Date and number of the Regional Ethic Committee approval is provided

Spelling and grammar were checked additionally and some minor misprints corrections have been done in the manuscript.

Potential peer reviewers for our manuscript:
Prof. Susanna Esposito  
Pediatric Highly Intensive Care Unit  
Department of Pathophysiology and Transplantation  
Università degli Studi di Milano  
Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico  
Via Commenda 9, 20122 Milano, Italy  
Phone: +39 02 55032498; fax: +39 02 50320206  
E-mail: susanna.esposito@unimi.it

Prof. Ron Dagan  
Soroka Medical Center Dept. of Paediatric Infectious Diseases P.O.Box 151  
Beer-Sheva, Israel  
Tel: +97286400547  
E-mail: rdagan@bgumail.bgu.ac.il

Prof. Zsófia Mészner  
National Institute of Child Health  
H-1113 Budapest  
64 Dioszegi ut  
Hungary  
Tel.: +36 (1) 365 1540  
zmeszner@gmail.com

Prof. Roman Prymula  
Hradec Králové  
Czech Republic  
Tel: +420 (602) 488620  
E-mail: prymula@pmfhk.cz

Looking forward to hearing from you.

With best regards,  
Vytautas Usonis

P.S.: Please address all correspondence to Tomas Kacergius (Email: tomas.kacergius@mf.vu.lt;  
Department of Physiology, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Laboratory Medicine, Faculty of Medicine,  
Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania).