Author's response to reviews

Title: Bordetella bronchiseptica pneumonia in a patient with lung cancer; a case report of a rare infection

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Philippa Harris
Editor, BMC Infectious Diseases

Dear Dr. Harris,

Re: INFD-D-17-00278

Bordetella bronchiseptica pneumonia in a patient with lung cancer; a new case of a rare infection by Manlio Monti et al.

On behalf of my co-authors, I am returning the above manuscript, fully revised on the basis of the reviewers’ comments, for further evaluation. A point-by-point reply to all the issues raised is attached and all modifications made to the text are indicated in red. The manuscript has been checked to ensure that it conforms to journal style, and editorial policies have been respected.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Yours sincerely,

Manlio Monti, MD
Corresponding Author

Reviewer 1 (Eric Harvill): This is a well-documented addition to the literature that will contribute an important example, and is likely to alert others of this occurrence, which is likely to be much more frequent than is reported. Minor edits would help the readability.

Reply: The manuscript has been checked for its readability by a native English speaker.


Reply: Both references have been added to the text (refs. 2 and 3).

In conclusion this phrase needs to be modified because there are more than seven species of Bordetella: "Conclusions

Among the seven species of Bordetella, three are exclusively respiratory pathogens in mammals: B. bronchiseptica, B. pertussis and B. parapertussis. B. bronchiseptica, a gram-negative coccobacillus, is primarily a zoonotic pathogen associated with human disease. It has been reported to cause a wide spectrum of illnesses ranging in severity from mild respiratory symptoms to sepsis and death [2]."

Reply: The sentence in question has been modified accordingly (page 7, line 2).

Reviewer 3 (Daniela Flavia Hozbor):

The ms of Monti describes a human case diagnosed with cavitating squamous cell lung carcinoma cT4N2M0 of the inferior left lung lobe and infected with B. bronchiseptica. The data presented have relevance for human health.

The ms however would benefit if, before being considering acceptable for publication, the authors should address the following points.
1 - To better understand the significance of the findings it would be nice that the authors include more information about the lung cancer, i.e its frequency, the prognosis, in particular for the lung cancer without Bordetella bronchiseptica infection.

Reply: As requested, we have added some information on lung cancer in the Discussion (page 8, lines 4-25 and page 9, lines 1-3).

2 - Readers would benefit if the authors briefly describe the rational of each treatment.

Reply: A description of the treatments used has been inserted in the Discussion (page 9, lines 19-25).

3 - The background section is scarce, as the bibliographic citations throughout the ms.

Reply: The Background section has been expanded (page 3, lines 2-9 and 18-20), and some pertinent references added (refs. 2, 3, 18-21, 23, 24).

4 - Authors should check the number of species of the genus Bordetella since there are not seven. Also include that B. holmesii is able to induce respiratory pathology with symptomatology similar to that caused by B. pertussis.

Reply: The number of species of the genus Bordetella has been corrected (there are 9, not 7) (page 3, line 2) and we have inserted a comment on B. holmesii (page 3, lines 3-4).

5 - The authors should indicate in the figure everything that is described in the legend.

Reply: This has been done.