Author’s response to reviews

Title: Update of incidence and antimicrobial susceptibility trends of Escherichia coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae isolates from Chinese intra-abdominal infection patients

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Reviewer reports:

Brandon Eilertson (Reviewer 2): In this revised manuscript, Zhang et al describe in vitro antimicrobial susceptibilities for Gram negative bacteria causing intra-abdominal infection (IAI) at 21 different Chinese hospitals over the period 2012-2014. They describe high prevalence of ESBL production in both E. coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae in all years, but decreasing between 2012 and 2014. In the revised manuscript they now include a full description of clinically relevant resistance to carbapenems and fluoroquinolones. Prior major questions have been addressed including more information on agents likely to be used to treat ESBL Enterobacteriaceae infections of the abdomen and also a more complete discussion of how this may translate into clinic practice in China. Based on the revisions I recommend publication after addressing the minor comments below.

Minor Comments

1. Line 117 - Based on the common use of fluoroquinolone therapy at discharge for the treatment of IAI, your abstract should not that high prevalence of fluoroquinolone resistance may dictate a change in PO regimens in IAI in China
   Response: We added this information into the abstract (Line 117-118)

2. Line 171 - Crissum should be perianal
   Response: We changed the sentence accordingly (Line 171)

3. Line 217 - add space between from and 16.2
   Response: We changed the sentence accordingly (Line 217)

4. Lines 349-351 - this sentence is confusing, your data suggests CTX-M is not the main cause of ESBL resistance based on your low rates of cefoxitin susceptibility, better to cite references showing that a diversity of enzymes circulate in china and that you did not investigate molecular mechanisms of resistance.
Response: We added a new reference (30) and changed the sentence to: In general a previous study noted that Chinese individuals were harboring the highest number and abundance of antibiotic resistance genes in their gut microbiota compared to Danish and Spanish individuals [30], but we did not include investigations of molecular mechanisms of resistances (Line 348-351).

5. Lines 365 - should note implications of high prevalence FQ resistance on oral stepdown therapy

Response: We added: …………………and should be avoided unless susceptibilities to this antimicrobial agents have been confirmed (line 365-366)