Author’s response to reviews

Title: Characterization of Salmonella enterica from invasive bloodstream infections and water sources in rural Ghana

Authors:

Denise Dekker (dekker@bni-hamburg.de)
Ralf Krumkamp (krumkamp@bnitm.de)
Daniel Eibach (eibach@bnitm.de)
Nimako Sarpong (nimakosarpong@yahoo.com)
Kennedy Boahen (gyaukennedy@yahoo.com)
Michael Frimpong (mfrimpong28@gmail.com)
Elina Fechtner (tkunz@wkk-hei.de)
Sven Poppert (sven@poppert.eu)
Ralf Hagen (hagen@bnitm.de)
Norbert Schwarz (schwarznorbert@bnitm.de)
yaw Sarkodie (yasax@hotmail.co.uk)
Ellis Owusu-Dabo (owusudabo@kccr.de)
Justin Im (justinim@ivi.int)
Florian Marks (fmarks@ivi.int)
Hagen Frickmann (frickmann@bnitm.de)
Juergen May (may@bni-hamburg.de)

Version: 1 Date: 27 Nov 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Hamburg 27.11.2017

Dear Kelvin To,
Thank you very much for the review of our manuscript. We appreciate the work provided by all of you, which improved the quality of the manuscript significantly. We have carefully considered your points and suggestions and based on the reviewers’ comments we have removed the PFGE analyses from the manuscript, which in our point of view has improved the value of the document. This was also one of the major criticisms. The focus is now on the water analyses only as a potential source for invasive non-typhoidal Salmonella. Textual changes and deletions were made, to fit the contents of the changed title of the study and to improve the language of this manuscript. Typos have been removed or corrected.

In addition, we added the requested epidemiological data of the study cohort to the manuscript. Also an additional affiliation (German Center for Infection Research (DZIF)) was added for some of the authors.

An amended version of the manuscript (using the track-changes function in word) and a revised manuscript without track-changes is uploaded to your submission platform.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Dekker

Journal requirements:

The declaration section has been updated and re-arranged

Reviewer Comments (please refer to document with track changes):

1. The time frame for blood cultures and water samples was now moved from the results section to the methods section now line 192-193 and 201-202.

2. Was there any epidemiological data available for analyses? Indeed the description of the study group was missing. Therefore we have now included data on some basic characteristics of the study children to line 266-268.

3. What does pre-select possible identical genotypes mean: PFGE analysis has now been removed. The entire section was deleted

4. It should be noted that FQ resistance is primarily related to S. Enteritidis. The information was added to the discussion section line 350-351

5. Typographical and spelling errors have been removed.
Please note the additional advice/criticism given was on the PFGE section, which has been removed. The deletions of the PFGE sections are visible in track changes throughout the entire manuscript.

Additional changes

1. The title was changed from “Systemic infections due to Salmonella enterica in rural Ghana - no evidence for human-to-human transmission or waterborne sources of major relevance” to “Characterization of Salmonella enterica from invasive bloodstream infections and water sources in rural Ghana”.

2. An additional author (Daniel Eibach) has been added to the manuscript who helped in revising this manuscript.

3. Textual changes were made throughout the manuscript to fit the contents of the title.