Author’s response to reviews

Title: Paediatric Focal Intracranial Suppurative Infection: a UK single-centre retrospective cohort study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear mister Hickey and mister Madson,

We are pleased to submit the attached twice revised original major article entitled ‘Paediatric Focal Intracranial Suppurative Infection: a UK single-centre retrospective cohort study’ for consideration for publication in BMC Pediatrics

Our study, which is among the largest case series available, and the largest single-centre case series, reviewed 95 paediatric cases of focal intracranial suppurative infection, a disease still known to cause significant mortality and morbidity. Currently there are no uniform guidelines regarding treatment and our study provides considerations regarding antibiotic treatment. We found a bimodal age distribution, and observed Streptococci were most commonly isolated. Only 12.7% of patients cultured anaerobe microorganisms. Furthermore, mortality was relatively low at 3.2% and there was significant short-term and long-term neurological morbidity, 38.5% and 24.2% respectively.

In this manuscript, we show there is a wide variability of empirical antibiotics used to treat these children effectively, but we also show that 90.5% of children would have been sufficiently covered with a standard empirical regimen of a third-generation cephalosporin plus metronidazole. This manuscript is relevant to BMC Pediatrics as it provides microbiological and treatment data for focal intracranial suppuration combined with descriptions of clinical predisposing factors, symptomatology, and outcome data. Therefore, it provides a broad, comprehensive overview which can help other centres to optimise their guidelines and practice regarding paediatric focal intracranial suppuration, and
responsible use of antibiotics.

We confirm that this manuscript is original and has not been published elsewhere and is not considered for publication by any other journal. All of the authors have seen and approved this manuscript for submission to BMC Pediatrics and fulfil the authorship criteria. There has not been any writing assistance. We prefer to have our figures published in black and white.

Thank you for your consideration of our manuscript. Please, find our response to the comments which have contributed to improving this manuscript attached. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely
On behalf of the authors,

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Editorial Comments
We kindly thank the editors for their comments in aid to improve our manuscript.

1. Please provide a List of abbreviations after the Conclusions section. If abbreviations are used in the text, they should be defined in the text at first use and included in this list.
   • A list of abbreviations has been added to the manuscript at the requested location on page 4.

2. When submitting your revised manuscript please ensure you do so as a single clean copy without any tracked changes, colored or highlighted text, as these are no longer required at this stage of the editorial process.
   • All tracked changes were accepted to be able to provide a single clean copy.