Author's response to reviews

Title: Leptospirosis infection in a homeless patient in December in Tokyo

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Editorial Board
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Dear Sir,

Thank you for your careful consideration and suggestions regarding the manuscript entitled “Leptospirosis infection in a homeless patient in December in Tokyo: a case report”. I modified the article as below according to your comments.

Please let me know if you have any other concerns.

Sincerely,
You me Kang, M.D.

Regarding concerns from reviewer 1 (Karen Krogfelt);

1. I explained what flaB is and what we used for the MAT test. I inserted the following sentence into the revised article and marked it in yellow color. “Serum and urine samples taken on hospital days 2 and 9 were subjected to microscopic agglutination testing and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. PCR method used a portion of the flaB gene coding for the flagellar protein of leptospires. Microscopic agglutination testing was performed by using a panel of 15 live leptospires representing main serovars commonly reported in Japan.”

2. As suggested by reviewer 1, I quoted the following sentence from the paper written by Villumsen et al. I marked it in the revised article in yellow color.

“However, to ensure a high sensitivity, samples have to be obtained before or shortly after the start of antibiotic therapy, since antimicrobials quickly remove Leptospira from the blood” (Steen Villumsen, Rebecca Pedersen, Karen Angeliki Krogfelt, Jørgen Skov Jensen, et al. Expanding the Diagnostic Use of PCR in Leptospirosis: Improved Method for DNA Extraction from Blood Cultures. PLoS ONE 5(8): e12095. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0012095).

3. As suggested by reviewer 1, I deleted table 2 and 3.
Regarding concerns from reviewer 2(Mahmoud Khattab);

1. As suggested by reviewer 2, I added the following sentence in the discussion part mentioning laboratory abnormalities shared with other cases reports regarding leptospirosis occurred in Japan. I marked it in yellow.

2. As suggested by reviewer 2, I deleted some sentences in the original conclusion part.

3. As suggested by reviewer 2, I added normal lab values in table1.