Author’s response to reviews

Title: Are antibiotics substandard in Lebanon? Quantification of active pharmaceutical ingredients between brand and generics of selected antibiotics

Authors:

Eva Hobeika (eva.hobeika@hotmail.com)
Joanna Farhat (joanna-farhat-94@hotmail.com)
Joseph Saab (josephiaab@usek.edu.lb)
Walid Hleihel (walidhleihel@usek.edu.lb)
Samar Azzi-Achkouty (samarazzi@usek.edu.lb)
Georges Sili (gmsili@hotmail.com)
Souheil Hallit (souheilhallit@hotmail.com)
Pascale Salameh (pascalesalameh1@hotmail.com)

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Dear Editor,

Here are the answers to your comments:

1. Abstract structure

Your abstract should include the following headings only: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions, and Keywords.

Done as requested.

2. Main text headings
Please incorporate the sections, ‘What is already known about this subject?’ and ‘What this study adds?’ into the Background section of the main body of text. Please note that your manuscript should contain the following main text headings only: Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions.

The different sections of the manuscript were corrected.

The sections, ‘What is already known about this subject?’ and ‘What this study adds?’ were added to the background.

3. Abbreviations

Please provide a list of all the abbreviations used in the manuscript. This list should be placed just before the Declarations section. All abbreviations should still be defined in the text at first use.

Added as requested.

4. Availability of data and materials

Please revise your availability of data and materials statement in your declarations.

The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are publicly available the manuscript and its Supporting Information files. The authors have signed a non-disclosure agreement with the manufacturers forbidding them to divulge any information about the names of the drugs used in the paper. Additional information is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

5. Authors’ contributions – initials needed

In the Authors’ contributions section of the Declarations, please ensure that initials are used to refer to each author’s contributions to the manuscript. For example: "FC analyzed and interpreted the patient data regarding the hematological disease and the transplant. RH performed the histological examination of the kidney, and was a major contributor in writing the manuscript.” Please add additional numbers or letters in order to distinguish between different authors with the same initials.
6. Authors’ contributions – missing authors

We note that the contributions of authors Walid Hleihel, Samar Azzi-Achkout and Georges Sili are missing from the Authors’ contributions statement of the Declarations. The individual contributions of ALL authors to the manuscript should be specified in this section. Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found in the online journal submission guidelines.

For comments 5 and 6, the authors' contribution paragraph was modified as follows:

EH carried out the research and drafted the manuscript; JS designed and approved the experimental protocols to be followed in the study; JF and EH were involved in the data analysis; WH, SAA and GS reviewed the manuscript and corrected it for intellectual content; SH and PS assisted in drafting; PS designed the study; all authors reviewed the final manuscript and gave their consent.

7. Funding / acknowledgements

Please state in the Funding section of the Declarations that the study was supported by the National Council of Scientific Research CNRSL through the Doctoral Fellowship Program.

Changed as requested.