

Peer Review File

Article information: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/apm-20-1978>

Comment 1: In lines 94-95 in cases of differences between the two researchers the consensus will be achieved between these researchers or has been a third researcher?, please clarify. Also, I recommend in line 94 use initials instead of names to indicate the researches who verify the data.

Reply 1: We have modified our text as advised.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) See Page 7, line 120-122.

Comment 2: -Figure 3B: please add abbreviations used in the figure; for instance: Univ, university.

Reply 2: We have modified our text as advised.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) See Page 32, line 492.

Comment 3: -Figure 6: there are multiple spelling errors, such as osteomyeliti instead of osteomyelitis. Please review and correct.

Reply 3: We have modified our text as advised.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) See Page 35, line 514.

Comment 4: -Table 1: please add abbreviations used in the table or modify the text inside the table; for instance: Univ, university.

Reply 4: We have modified our text as advised.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) See Page 23, line 460.

Comment 5: -Table 5: there are multiple spelling errors in keywords list, such as septic arthriti instead of septic arthritis. Please review and correct.

Reply 5: We have modified our text as advised.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) See Page 27, line 468-469.

Comment 6: -Table 7: there are multiple spelling errors in keywords list, such as absce instead of abscess. Please review and correct.

Reply 6: We have modified our text as advised.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) See Page 29, line 473; Page 30, line 474.

Comment 7: Discussion section is well structured with different sections. Authors manage well the discussion leading a good comparison with the showed references.

However, author should discuss the results showed in lines 163-168, because I have lacked the discussion about these results.

Reply 7: We have added discussion about the results showed in lines 163-168.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) See Page 14, line 296; Page 15, line 297-298.

Comment 8: Please follow the attached “Submission Checklist for Authors” and revise your paper if needed.

Reply 8: Our manuscript assessed by reviewers was written in accordance with the attached “Submission Checklist for Authors”. No more modifications were required.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) None.

Comment 9: a. The article doesn’t need to follow a Checklist for reporting standards. Please place “N/A” in the “Submission Checklist”.

Reply 9: We have added “N/A” in the “Submission Checklist”.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) N/A.

Comment 10: b. “Data Sharing Statement” is a statement made by authors to confirm their willingness of sharing raw data/patient information related to the article with others. We attached a template for your reference.

Reply 10: We have submitted a “Data Sharing Statement”.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) N/A.

Comment 11: c. Conflict of Interest (COI) Form must be provided, as suggested by ICMJE: (<http://www.icmje.org/conflicts-of-interest/>). Each author should submit a separate form and is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the submitted information. COI form download link: [https://cdn.amegroups.cn/static/public/COI-Disclosure-\(please-use-an-Adobe-Acrobat-Reader-to-open\).pdf](https://cdn.amegroups.cn/static/public/COI-Disclosure-(please-use-an-Adobe-Acrobat-Reader-to-open).pdf).

Reply 11: Each author have submitted a COI form.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) N/A.

Comment 12: d. Please indicate if any of the authors serves as a current Editorial Team member (such as Editors-in-Chief, Editorial Board Member, Section Editor) for this journal.

Reply 12: None of the authors serves as a current Editorial Team member (such as Editors-in-Chief, Editorial Board Member, Section Editor) for this journal.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) N/A.

Comment 13: e. Please confirm that all figures/tables in your manuscripts are original; if not, permission is needed from the copyright holder for the reproduction.

Reply 13: We have confirmed that all figures/tables were original.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) N/A.

Comment 14: f. We are using the “Submission Checklist for Authors” to double-check your manuscript, place “Y” on blank space if you confirm your manuscript has followed the requirement. Place “N/A” if not applicable. If further explanation is needed on a certain item, you can copy the Item and write explanations down below. A filled “Submission Checklist for Authors” should be submitted to the editorial office, along with other required documents.

Reply 14: We have submitted a filled “Submission Checklist for Authors” along with other required documents.

Changes in the text: (Revised version) N/A.