

Author's response to reviews

Title: Burden of severe RSV disease among immunocompromised children and adults: a 10 year retrospective study.

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Replies to the reviewers' comments

We thank the editor and the reviewer for his/her comments and for giving us the opportunity to resubmit a completely revised manuscript. The reviewers' comments are indicated in bold. Please note that the page and line numbers in our responses to reviewers' comments refer to our numbering in the revised manuscript.

Reviewer 3

▪ REORGANIZATION AND REWITING OF THE MANUSCRIPT

« After reviewing the revised manuscript - including responses to each reviewer - i am disappointed with the attempt to improve this manuscript. It appears that many of the reviewer's comments were simple 'tacked-on' statements instead of being re-written, re-organized and included in a proper literary construct. The revised manuscript is poorly written (grammar, punctuation and run-ons) , poorly constructed (confusing and meandering at best) and fails to provide a clear and concise description of the scientific study. »

The manuscript has been significantly re-organized and re-written. All reviewer's comments have been included in a proper literary construct. We have corrected all grammar, punctuation and run-ons issues.

▪ STATISTICAL ANALYSES p.6, ll. 7-27; p.7, ll.1-4

“The Statistical Analyses sub-section still fails at properly describing and employing proper analyses for nearly all of the data. In the tables, they list Univariate Logistic Regression, but do not describe this technique in the statistic sub-section. They fail to describe how they handled multiple specimens collected from the same patient - multiple specimens collected during the same hospitalization? if so, this creates problems and most likely invalidates results through fundamental corruption of statistical analyses first principles. »

We have addressed the reviewer's comment and have properly described all statistical analyses, including univariable and multivariable regression analyses. For all statistical testing , only the first RSV-positive midturbinate swab was included in cases with multiple RSV-positive swabs within the same patient collected during the same hospitalization or in subsequent ARTI as these samples could not be considered independ. As such we rigorously avoided fundamental corruption of statistical first principles.

- TABLE 1

“To emphasize more on such category, consider re-segregation of Table 1 into outpatient and inpatient.”

We have and re-segregated Table 1 into in and out-patients.

We have also simplified Table 3 & 4 for clarity purposes.