Author's response to reviews

Title: Using a practical molecular capsular serotype prediction strategy to investigate Streptococcus pneumoniae serotype distribution and antimicrobial resistance in Chinese local hospitalized children

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reply to the reviewers’ comments

Date: 10 January 2016

Dr Catherine Olino
BMC Pediatrics
Journal Editorial Office BioMed Central

Dear Dr Olino,

RE: MS: 1670154452176925 - Using a practical molecular capsular serotype prediction strategy to investigate *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotype distribution and antimicrobial resistance in Chinese local hospitalized children

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We are pleased to address all the three reviewers’ comments point-by-point as below.

**Referee 1:**

**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Using a practical molecular capsular serotype prediction strategy to investigate *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotype distribution and antimicrobial resistance in Chinese local hospitalized children

**Version:** 3

**Date:** 16 December 2015

**Reviewer:** Hans-Christian Slotved

**Reviewer's report:**

Minor Essential Revisions

**Question** 1. Page 18, line 392 to page 19 line 402: I think this section need to be rewritten. It is difficult to grasp, that the distribution numbers from line 393 to 395 must be for all children of < X age!!!!. While the distribution data from line 397 to 398 cover children less than 2 years of age.

**Answer:** Thanks for your suggestion. We have specified the age corresponding with the distribution numbers (Lines 389-394).
**Question** 2. I also suggest in the same section (Page 18, line 392 to page 19 line 402), to make it clearer that PCV-7 is not anymore available!

**Answer:** We fully agree with the reviewer’s comment and have added the relevant sentence and made some other changes associated with PCV-7.

**Question** 3. In figure 1 and figure 1S should the species name be in italic! Also lock at the spelling!

**Answer:** Thanks, this has been fixed.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:** I declare that I have no competing interests
Referee 2:

Reviewer's report

Title: Using a practical molecular capsular serotype prediction strategy to investigate Streptococcus pneumoniae serotype distribution and antimicrobial resistance in Chinese local hospitalized children

Version: 3

Date: 22 December 2015

Reviewer: Allan Truant

Reviewer's report:

Major Suggested Revisions: None

Minor Suggested Revisions:

Question 1. Page 3, Line 38: "...one of (the) ten countries..." Please delete "the".

Answer: Thanks, this has been fixed.

Question 2. Page 7, Line 128: "...pneumonia suffering from".

Answer: Thanks, this has been fixed.

Question 3. Page 8, Line 157: In the manuscript only abbreviations which are used subsequently in the manuscript need to be included. If the name or test is NOT used subsequently in the manuscript an abbreviation is not needed. For example, please check the use of SSI and other abbreviations.

Answer: Thanks, these have been fixed.

Discretionary Revisions: None

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests
Reviewer's report:
The manuscript is now greatly improved. There are now just a couple of minor issues remaining:

**Question 1.** P8, L163-165. The sentence is a little ambiguous: were most or all GenBank cpsB sequences included?

**Answer:** All 390 available GenBank *S. pneumoniae* sequences with full-length of *cpsB* (as of Jan 1, 2015) were included in our database. We have reworded this sentence to make it clearer.

**Question 2.** P12, L234-43. Some of this is more discussion rather than results, specifically the sentences beginning "To our knowledge..." and "Having more serotype sequetypes...". These sentences should be removed or repositioned in the discussion section.

**Answer:** Thanks, we have moved these sentences to the discussion section (Lines 326-329).

**Question 3.** P14, L279-83. This also is more appropriate in the discussion section.
**Answer:** Thanks, we have moved these sentences to the discussion section (Lines 349-353).

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:** I declare that I have no competing interests. Thank you for taking the time to consider this manuscript for publication.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Qiyi Zeng