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Manuscript Type: Review

Answering reviewers

This is a well written and organized manuscript. The findings are intriguing and important. The conventional wisdom and assumptions are that it is unambiguous to mostly correlate infections due to Gram-negative MDR bacteria with mortality in ICU patients. Even though sample size, multiple confounders and other methodological issues may influence the analyses, the results of the manuscript do imply that further studies are warranted to elucidate the real impact of infections caused by resistant bacteria in ICU patients. It would be greatly helpful and beneficial if the authors can offer insightful and thoughtful guidance as to the design of such studies.

REPLY

We would like to thank you for your comments. Concerning the need of future studies, the last sentence in the Abstract is in accordance with your remark. This sentence has also been added to the *Conclusion* in the revised manuscript



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