

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

Thank you for reviewing my article. I am happy to revise and explain the problems. I will explain the two problems you mentioned as follows.

“M. abscessus was identified by a Vitek MS MALDI-TOF”. Because of the best and accurate method for detection of NTM isolates is MLSA method, why did the author use this test for NTM detection? What is the specificity and sensitivity of this test

Mycobacterium abscessus was identified by Vitek MS MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry system (bioMérieux, France). Vitek MS MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometry System has been approved by the US FDA on July 31, 2017 for the identification of mycobacteria. This kind of identification method is convenient and efficient, which is helpful for patients to treat as soon as possible.

Doing DST for RGM according to CLSI before treatment is necessary. How did the author prescribe the drugs?

The results of the in vitro susceptibility test for Mycobacterium abscessus are also uneven. The relatively consistent results show that the drugs with better sensitivity to Mycobacterium abscessus are: clarithromycin, amikacin, cefoxitin, sensitivity More than 90%; moderately sensitive drugs are: linezolid, imipenem, moxifloxacin, tetracycline antibiotics, sensitivity 40-60%; poorly sensitive drugs are: ciprofloxacin, compound sulfamethoxazole Tobramycin, the sensitivity is about 10% [6]. There is no treatment guide for cutaneous Mycobacterium abscessus infection, and there is no standardized treatment. But clarithromycin is the cornerstone of all therapeutic drugs.

I hope this explanation will give you every satisfaction. We look forward to your favorable feedback to our submission and we will be more than happy to address any questions of you to improve this manuscript.

Yours sincerely

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Answering reviewers of Re-review comments:

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

Thank you for reviewing my article. I am happy to revise and explain the problems. I will explain the the problem you mentioned as follows.

What is the specificity and sensitivity of Vitek MS MALDI-TOF test?

Nowadays, there is a rising worldwide incidence of diseases caused by *nontuberculous mycobacteria* (*NTM*) species, especially in immunocompromised patients and those with underlying chronic pulmonary diseases. Recently, matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization-time of flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) became a method of choice for the identification of *NTM* species. The aim of this study was to evaluate MALDI-TOF MS for the identification of *NTM* isolates compared to the PCR-restriction enzyme analysis (PRA)-hsp65 method. MALDI-TOF MS successfully identified 97.4%, failed to identify 2.6%. MALDI-TOF MS is a technique capable of performing accurate, rapid, cost-effective, and easy identification of *NTM* isolates. [New Microbiol. 2018 Jul; 41(3): 214-219. Epub 2018 Jun 6. PMID: 29874386]

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