

Response to reviewers

Lena P *et al.* In Vitro Study on the Transmission of Multidrug-Resistant Bacteria from Textiles to Pig Skin (**Manuscript NO:** 86938)

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: Lena P *et al.* examine a real-world problem that is more prevalent and very relevant. The authors are clear and logical. The article is well structured, methodical and well argued. There are a few shortcomings: 1. Existence refers to an objective fact that is already there, whereas the MDRB in this article were artificially inoculated onto textiles by the authors. Therefore, it is suggested that the authors should amend the words "presence" and "survival" in the text. 2. "All MDRB were able to be sustained and transferred to skin, but at different concentrations and time." Please briefly explain the reasons for the "different concentrations and time" and the implications for the real world. 3. Please refer to the journal guidelines for the format of the references.

We would like to thank Reviewer #1 for their positive remarks and useful comments. We have proceeded with all necessary amendments according to their guidance. Please see our responses below:

1. Existence refers to an objective fact that is already there, whereas the MDRB in this article were artificially inoculated onto textiles by the authors. Therefore, it is suggested that the authors should amend the words "presence" and "survival" in the text.

Response: Thank you for your comment. We have made effort to amend these words throughout the text, in order to better confer their meaning.

2. "All MDRB were able to be sustained and transferred to skin, but at different concentrations and time." Please briefly explain the reasons for the "different concentrations and time" and the implications for the real world.

Response: The phrase above is part of the Core tip of the study, which aims to highlight in brief the findings and conclusions of the study in up to 100 words. To this end and following reviewer suggestion, we have added a relevant statement in the part of the Discussion section. "Our experimental study was performed under the same environmental conditions for all 3 studied MDRB. Therefore, the different observations in regard to time intervals and concentrations among the 3 studied MDRB in our study, probably reflect the properties of these bacterial strains."

3. Please refer to the journal guidelines for the format of the references.

Response: Thank you for the correction, we have revised the reference format according to journal guidelines (Vancouver style).

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Rejection

Specific Comments to Authors: Thank you for the possibility to review this manuscript entitled "In Vitro Study on the Transmission of Multidrug-Resistant Bacteria from Textiles to Pig Skin". The authors are investigating the the presence, survival and transmission of different multidrug-resistant bacteria (MDRB) from HCP attire onto skin. However, the content of the paper is not novel enough. In terms of experimental design, this study lacks the identification report of each microflora.

Response: We would like to thank Reviewer #2 for their useful remarks. We have followed all reviewer suggestions to improve the quality of our manuscript. Although we acknowledge that our study is not novel enough, we strongly believe that our study design and findings carry several strengths and add to current literature, supporting the possibility for transmission of MDRB from textiles to skin in healthcare environments.

Reviewer #3:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: The authors discuss in this paper the spectrum of bacterial diffusion and transmission on the skin through textile fabrics. The title reflects the content with a well-elucidated text and a structured methodology consolidated with correct bibliographic citations. Discussion of data from experimental observations reflects the logic quality of the analysis way and comparative approach adopted by the authors with a convergence towards a clinically satisfactory conclusion. As an external observer, I invite the authors to improve the form of the paper by transferring the part (The findings of our study... of bacteria) in the Discussion (§) in the Introduction and to shed light on their results by highlighting the remaining part from the (The survival ability...)

Response: We would like to thank Reviewer #3 for their positive view of our study and quality of our manuscript. Based on their comments and suggestions, we have sought to improve the clarity of the Introduction and Discussion section. To this end, we have added a study hypothesis in the introduction, which is in line with our study aims: "Based on current literature, including experimental and observational studies, we hypothesize that MDRB carry the ability to survive on textiles to a considerable extent to be isolated and to transmit onto skin." We have also added a statement in the discussion, highlighting the different observations as regard to the survival ability of the 3 studied MDRB "Our experimental study was performed under the same environmental conditions for all 3 studied MDRB. Therefore, the different observations in regard to time intervals and concentrations among the 3 studied MDRB in our study, probably reflect the properties of these bacterial strains."