

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

December 15, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 13289-review.doc).

**Title:** When sepsis affects the heart: A case report and literature review

**Author:** Giuseppe Clemente, Antonino Tuttolomondo, Daniela Colomba, Rosaria Pecoraro, Chiara Renda, Vittoriano Della Corte, Carlo Maida, Irene Simonetta, Antonio Pinto

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 13289

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

- The figures have been made decomposable by ppt (see infra page 18 and files ppt attachment).
- We have inserted "The heart in sepsis" as running title.
- Comment 1: Our postcode is 90127.
- Author contributions have been defined as follows: Clemente G, Tuttolomondo A and Pinto A designed the report; Colomba D performed transthoracic echocardiogram evaluation; Clemente G, Pecoraro R, Renda C, Della Corte V, Maida C, Simonetta I contributed new reagents or analytic tools; Clemente G and Tuttolomondo A analyzed data; Clemente G and Tuttolomondo A wrote the paper.
- Comment 2: Ethics approval: not applicable.
- Comment 3: Informed consent has been made in pdf format.
- Comment 4: Corresponding address is to Antonino Tuttolomondo, MD, U.O.C. di Medicina Interna e Cardioangiologia, DiBiMiS (Dipartimento di Medicina Interna e Specialistica) University of Palermo, 90127, Italy. [bruno.tuttolomondo@unipa.it](mailto:bruno.tuttolomondo@unipa.it)
- Comment 5: Telephone number provided is +39-091-6552128 and Fax number is +39-091-091-6552142
- Comment 6: A summary of less 100 words to point out the most important and innovative arguments of the paper (Core tip).
- Comment 7: All points of the "Comments" have been summarized.
- Comment 8: The references have been cited to the text in article body and with the addition of DOI citation and PMID.

### Reviewer 1

Thank the reviewers for the thorough evaluation of our manuscript

This manuscript is aimed to report a case of cardiac involvement during severe sepsis and

to discuss the case based on literature review. This is very important clinical issue as the rate of mortality in septic patients with cardiac involvement is very high. The main critic is that the authors are not focused on the main goal. If they want to discuss cardiac involvement they should first of all talk about differential diagnosis in this patient and rule out them to specify the exact diagnosis and then discuss that diagnosis further with comprehensive review of the literature. The main topic to be addressed probably is Takotsubo syndrome. The authors have not definitely discussed the possible similarities and differences between their case and Takotsubo syndrome. The text integrity is possible to be enhanced. A long paragraph about hypotension at the beginning of discussion, is recommended to be substituted with the one about differential diagnosis. Then, they can continue with their main diagnoses (Takotsubo syndrome, etc) and diagnostic points (troponin, BNP, ...). Inotropic drugs be discussed with more details and related references be deleted from the text body. Moreover, there are sentences that probably need to be rewritten to be more clear such as these ones: "Myocardial dysfunction in sepsis could be an outcome of the direct action of different mediators or the effect of the increased release of catecholamines whose hyperdynamic state is an expression of sepsis. " "Therefore, our patient, TakoTusubo not Takotsubo, had survived sepsis that had affected her heart ." The other main problem is paucity of references in this manuscript. There are many statements without any cited publication to support it. Table for data lab is better to be more concise by omitting non relevant test

Dear reviewer we added the indicated changes and topics ( see red font on manuscript)

#### Second Reviewer

The presented manuscript is a case report on a septic patient with cardiac involvement. The title of the manuscript (literature review) suggests that the manuscript would also provide an overview of the existing literature on this topic, which is only partly the case. The manuscript would substantially be improved by providing a more extensive literature overview. e.g. ISRN Cardiology 2013, 723435; Clin Res Cardiol. 2014 Jul;103(7):561-7, and many others.

We added the suggested changes (see red font on manuscript)

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