

## **Response letter to the reviewers**

1. The new file will be sent in a .doc format
2. We changed the title adding a short running title: "Retrospective review at six years follow-up".
3. The postcode was inserted in the title page
4. Data of the corresponding author have been updated
5. Authors contributions have been inserted
6. All statements have been inserted
7. The core tip was inserted and recorded
8. All the ref number are now listed in the correct order and format
9. The language of our manuscript has been revised from a native language English speaker.
10. The antibiotic-loaded cement spacer was always loaded with gentamicin and this is now specified in the manuscript.
11. The antibiotic therapy performed for each patients was based on the sensibility of the culture to the antibiotic therapy. Dosage, duration and any drug changes were discussed and decided by our infectious diseases consultant considering the patient's comorbidities, liver and kidney function and response to therapy. This is now specified in the manuscript.
12. No antibiotic therapy was performed after the second surgical stage because all the patients were considered cured from infection. Standard prophylaxis at anaesthetic induction was performed according to the guideline of our hospital. This is now specified in the manuscript.