

Treviso 07/08/2019

Dear Editor,

We appreciated the comments of the reviewer.

Listed below are the changes introduced in the manuscript according to the editor's suggestions and reviewers' comments.

1. *Page 4 please change the heading Cover Tip to Core Tip*: Correction made.
2. *Page 5, line 2, please delete "was before unfolded"*: we have deleted it, and changed the sentence.
3. *The individual description of 6 cases is unnecessary and too lengthy. The authors should describe one case in detail and avoid description of the other 5 cases*. We have kept the description of only the first two cases notified in Italy (ie Patient 1 and Patient 2).  
*Table 1 is sufficient and summarizes the information of the remaining cases to make it palatable for the general readership of the manuscript*. To increase the scientific strength of table 1 we also included the last 3 cases diagnosed in 2019, consequently also modifying the number of some clinical data and the text of related comments in the "discussion" of the manuscript
4. *Please describe all abbreviations when first used in the manuscript*. Correction made.
5. *Please include a Table to summarize the clinical features of Mycobacterium chimaera infections*. We include Tab 2.
6. *The quality of the manuscript will be further enhanced if the authors include a Table or a Figure (World Map) summarizing the number of cases reported worldwide after cardiac surgery*: We include Fig.1. However, I encountered some technical difficulties in making figure 1. Therefore, in the "upload revision files", I uploaded both the PDF file of the WorldMap with the correct signalling of the affected countries, and the Word file, with the WorldMap (unfortunately incomplete) inserted in an explanatory table (this would be the desired figure 1, once the WorldMap has been completed). We remain available for any further corrections.
7. *Please elaborate the mechanism of infection from heater-cooler units*. We explain the mechanism of infection in the "Introduction".
8. *Please include a Table to summarize the steps take to mitigate the risk of Mycobacterium chimaera infections after cardiac surgery*. We include Tab 4.

Best regards,

Dr. Walter O Inojosa on behalf of all the authors.