

ANSWERING REVIEWER

Round-1

Dear reviewer,

Thank you for your great evaluation and valuable comments on our manuscript. The suggestions you provided were crucial for the improvement of the quality of our paper. Aiming to fulfill your suggestions, the following changes were made:

Some points of the topic "Clinical Manifestations and Diagnosis" have been rewritten in order to make the information clearer and more practical as suggested. The mortality cutoff points of the APACHEII and MPI indexes were included; however, we did not find cutoff points to specifically identify a peritonitis in previous studies (changes highlighted in **green** in the manuscript file).

All of the changes from minor comments and small points suggested were made, with the reformulation of some paragraphs in order to make some points clearer (changes highlighted in **blue** in the manuscript file), as detailed below:

- 1- The classification of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* as multiresistant bacteria was removed from the introduction;
- 2- The paragraph that addresses the most frequent pathogens that cause Tertiary Peritonitis has been rewritten so that there are no more contradictions regarding this issue within the text;
- 3- According to the source used in the text, the leukocyte values are indeed, provided in leukocytes/mL;
- 4- The term spontaneous peritonitis was replaced with primary peritonitis;
- 5- The first paragraph on page 9 has been rewritten to better explain the alternative classification for TP;

6- Reference 40 has been rewritten in order to better explain on demand laparotomy;

7- The table has been modified as you suggested.

The manuscript underwent a thorough language revision and editing by an English speaker. These changes included the elimination of isolated errors and the rephrasing of multiple sentences, as you suggested, and were extremely important to improve the quality of the article (changes highlighted in yellow in the manuscript file).

Round-2

I thank the authors for incorporating nearly all of my suggestions. Two issues are left: 1) spelling error at the bottom of page 9: "or who have are at a high risk": delete have 2) issue number 3: the authors are correct that their source indicates that the values of peritoneal leukocytes are /ml. However, their source is wrong: it must be per μl : in the source, values are also given for primary /spontaneous peritonitis as per ml, but as you might verify in every international guideline on that topic, it must be per μl or mm^3 (250 cells or 500 cells / μl)

Dear reviewer,

Thank you for your great evaluation and valuable comments on our manuscript. The suggestions you provided were crucial for the improvement of the quality of our paper. Aiming at fulfilling your suggestions, the following changes were performed:

- 1- The word "have" was excluded in the part "or who have are at a high risk" (highlighted in pink in the manuscript file);
- 2- We have replaced leukocytes/mL with leukocytes/ μL as you suggested (highlighted in pink in the manuscript file).

Best Regards,

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