

Response to reviewers and science editor

To reviewer #1:

in Examination section, Paragraph 1 We extracted and cultured the bacteria on potato dextrose agar using the specimen, yielding a huge colony on the plate 21 days later (Figure 2). Please describe the temperature at which the strain in the Figures was incubated.

----- We cultured the bacteria on potato dextrose agar using the specimen at 37 °C. We corrected them.

in Examination section, Paragraph 2 However, a recent study has confirmed that this technique is able to identify organisms such as black yeasts, which are ordinarily comparatively difficult to identify, down to the species level, with a discrimination rate of *E. dermatitidis* using MALDI-TOF MS of at least 80.6% — impressive, but unfortunately still not 100% [35]. Are the identification results for *E. dermatitidis* based on the database provided with the system?

----- Yes. We inserted the sentence in manuscript.

Since the identification accuracy may vary depending on the MALDI-TOF MS system, I think it would be better to state the name of the instrument used (Microflex LT?).

----- We inserted following sentences in the manuscript. “Mass spectrometry was performed using the Microflex LT model (Bruker Daltonik GmbH) MALDI-TOF instrument. The linear positive-ion mode was used within a mass range of 2,000–20,000 Da for microbial identification. The instrument was equipped with a 60-Hz nitrogen laser and for each spectrum, 240 laser shots from different positions of the sample spot were accumulated and analyzed. We inserted these sentences.” These sentences were from reference number 35.

in Examination section, Paragraph 2 In particular, the low-quality mass spectra and insufficient database entries for some fungal isolates can hinder MALDI-TOF MS-based identification; Is the "low-quality mass spectra" caused by bad material processing?

----- Yes. We inserted the sentence in manuscript.

in Treatment section, Paragraph 1 Additionally, the guidelines do not indicate AMB for treatment. Please describe “the guidelines” in more detail.

----- European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID)

and European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM) joint clinical guidelines for the diagnosis and management of systemic phaeohyphomycosis : diseases caused by black fungi, which was published in 2014. We inserted the sentence in manuscript.

To science editor:

(2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This manuscript provides useful information for those dealing with fungal diseases. Examination section and guidelines should be described in more detail., The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered;

----- We answered all questions raised by the reviewers.

(6) References recommendations (kindly remind): The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s)

----- Thank you very much. Fortunately, we didn't find the peer reviewer(s) request for us to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves).

5 Issues raised: (1) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor

----- All pictures in this manuscript were from our institution. We inserted the sentence in the manuscript.

To company editor-in-chief:

Before final acceptance, uniform presentation should be used for figures showing the same or similar contents; for example, "Figure 1 Pathological changes of atrophic gastritis after treatment. A: ...; B: ...; C: ...; D: ...; E: ...; F: ...; G: ...".

----- We used uniform presentation for figures showing the same or similar contents.