

Santiago, September 19th, 2022

To the Editor:

Thanks a lot for the reviewers' kind comments about our manuscript: "Is the near coming xenotransplantation era relieving us from needing to look for more non-living organ donors?", code 79515.

Responses to the reviewers:

Reviewer 1:

1. The format of the references and the citation format should be modified according to the published literature of the journal.

Response: The format of references was modified according to the published literature of the journal.

2. The article lacks an outlook on the future development of xenotransplantation, which could be briefly described.

Response: As the article's aim is not to discuss the future of xenotransplantation, we did not consider discussing this topic in detail. Nevertheless, we add, at the end of the final paragraph the sentence: "Nevertheless, as the xenotransplantation technology and production processes improve, the prices will go down allowing more consumers to afford the reception of a genetically modified xenograft".

Reviewer 2:

1. I don't think that Latin America and Western Europe are culturally similar. Maybe, a different comparison would better fit the scope of the sentence.

Response: We acknowledge the writing was misleading. We intended to say: "This could explain, in part, the asymmetries in organ donation rates in different countries, even when they are culturally similar, as occurs, for example, in **those countries belonging to** Latin America or **those belonging to** Western Europe." Thanks for the advice.

2) The terms "America" and "Europe" (regarding global donation rate) are too vague. Indeed, in both continents, there are several organ donation and transplantation authorities or organization.

Response: Our aim was to highlight that in both regions procurement activities could be improved in order to intent, in the future, to replicate the results of the leaders in this activity.

3) I would change "cardiac" with "circulatory" death.

Response: The change was made.

4) Similarly, I would change "organ extraction" with "retrieval" or "procurement"

Response: The changes were made.

5) The word "harvesting" should be abandoned. Try and use "procurement" instead.

Response: The changes were made.

6) Xenotransplants would be excruciatingly expensive also in countries with top level national health services, such as UK or Italy. Therefore, it would be relevant to include this topic in the discussion about costs.

Response: The original sentence was modified to: "The latter could imply that the price of an organ from a genetically modified pig would be close to the total QALY gained from the transplant (QALY/year multiplied by additional years of graft or host survival) plus a "consumer surplus" of 10 %, which could be no less than US\$500,000 for a heart or US\$250,000 for a kidney (assuming that both grafts last only 5 years, which is a very conservative estimate) which, obviously, could be paid by very few people only from the wealthiest countries **and certainly even the world strongest public health systems could not finance those transplants** (21)".'

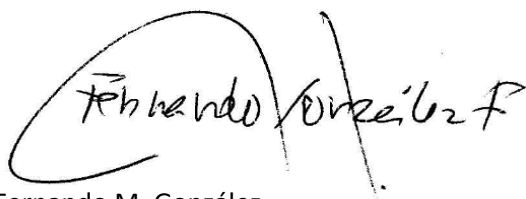
7) I understand the main topic of discussion is xenotransplantation vs deceased donor transplantation. However, it would be nice mentioning living donor transplantation as well because, beside costs, it raise an ethical dilemma. Should we put healthy subjects at risk to save money?

Response: A short comment was added at the very end of the last paragraph: We did not include a discussion about allografts coming from living donors because besides costs, it raises an ethical dilemma that was out of our scope.

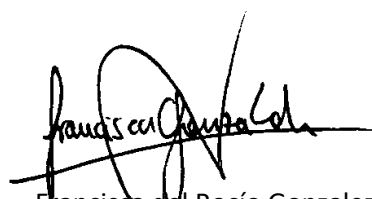
Reviewer 3:

Thanks so much for your comment.

We hope these editions were welcome. Best regards



Fernando M. González



Francisca del Rocío Gonzalez