

March 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

Jin-Zhou Tang  
Science Editor, Editorial Office  
World Journal of Orthopedics

Dear Jin-Zhou Tang  
Subject: Submission of revised **Manuscript 53446**

Thank you for your email dated February 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 regarding the reviews received for our revised manuscript. We have carefully studied the reviewers' comments and have revised the manuscript accordingly. Our responses are given in a point-by-point iteration below.

We hope the revised version is now suitable for publication as per the reviewers' comments and look forward to hearing from you in the due course.

Regards  
Nada Qaisar Qureshi  
Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi  
Pakistan

## **Reviewer Comments- Round 1**

**General Comments:** This is an interesting study on the microbial colonization of mobile phones in the orthopedic operating room, indicating that 93% of the phones were colonized by potentially pathogenic bacteria and suggesting measures for "Mobile hygiene" to avoid the risk of contamination and -potentially- of surgical site infections.

### **Specific Comments:**

1. In the Results section, paragraph 3.2. Culture and Sensitivity, the authors must provide the percentage of mobile phones with multiple organisms. The same percentage must be added to Table 1 and Figure 2.  
*Thank you for your comment, the percentage of mobile phones with more than one organism has been added to the text, Table 1 and Figure 2.*
2. In the same paragraph 3.2. Culture and Sensitivity, the authors state that "Interestingly, there was 100% resistance to meropenem among the enterobacter and pseudomonas species and 54% resistance to oxacillin among coagulase negative staphylococcus species (Table 2)". Does Table 2 contain the percentage of resistance or sensitivity? Also, according to Table 2 the respective percentage for meropenem and pseudomonas species was 80% and not 100%.  
*Thank you for pointing this out. The correction has been made in the text and Table 2.*
3. In the Results section, paragraph 3.4. Factors influencing colonization by Coagulase negative Staphylococcus, please change the word "orthopic" with "orthopedic".  
*Thank you for your comment. We have made this change in the text.*

4. In the same paragraph 3.4. Factors influencing colonization by Coagulase negative Staphylococcus, please provide p-values.  
*Thank you for your comment. The p-values have been added to the text.*
5. In the Discussion section, 4th paragraph, I am not sure to what the authors refer with the sentence "Similarly, an incident in Larry Dossey's "Distracted doctoring and the iPatient" narrates a nurse attending a phone call after washing her hands and forgets to clean them again before administering intravenous antibiotics to her patient".  
*Thank you for your comment. We have revised this statement to make it more understandable.*
6. In the Discussion section, 5th paragraph, please change the word "esistant" with the word "resistant".  
*Thank you for pointing this out. We have made the correction in the text.*
7. Please consider decreasing the length of the discussion and avoid repetitions.  
*Thank you for your suggestion. The discussion has been limited to relevant content and literature.*
8. In Table 1, first row: Coagulase negative Staphylococcus, the numbers and percentages are probably wrong as their addition exceeds the n=62 and the 100%.  
*Thank you for pointing this out. We have made the correction in the table.*
9. In Table 1, the authors must provide the percentage of mobile phones with multiple organisms.  
*Thank you for your comment. We have added this percentage to the table.*
10. Is the title of Table 2: "Antibiotic sensitivity analysis" correct or is it an antibiotic resistance analysis?  
*Thank you for your comment. We have made this change to the table heading.*
11. In Figure 2 please add the number of mobile phones with multiple organisms.  
*Thank you for your comment. We have added this percentage to the Figure legend.*
12. In Figure 3 please add the species  
*Thank you for your comment. The organisms isolated in totality have been mentioned in table 1. Building on that information to add species to this figure would mean entering an exhaustive combination of organisms found on each cell phone. This would be too long for a figure legend and have limited scientific value. However, if still needed, we can enter the combination of organisms on each cell phone as an appendix.*