

RE: Manuscript ID:78767

Microbial spectrum and drug resistance of pathogens cultured from gallbladder bile specimens of patients with cholelithiasis: A single-center retrospective study

Dear Editor:

We would like to thank the editor and reviewers for the critical review of our manuscript. These comments are valuable and dramatically strengthened our paper. We have made the point-to-point revisions based on the reviewers' comments, and the changes are highlighted in **YELLOW** in the revised manuscript. We feel that these revisions have substantially strengthened our manuscript, and we are very appreciative of your and colleagues' time and effort.

A point-by-point response to the Editors' and Reviewers' comments and suggestions is enclosed. The revised manuscript follows all points in the Author Guidelines of *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*.

If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Responses to the Comments from the Editors and Reviewers:

Reviewer #1:

1. Abstract is not well summarized.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the comment. Based on your suggestion, we

have revised the abstract of the manuscript in order to better summarize the content of the article.

2. there is no hypothesis in the whole documents

Response: We thank the reviewer for this question. This is a cross-sectional study, and there is no consensus on bile microbial culture profiles in previous studies, and identified microbial spectrum and drug resistance is helpful for targeted preventive and therapeutic drugs in the perioperative period. We have revised the manuscript.

3. METHOD part it need major revision (setting , criteria, sample size and technique)

Response: Thank the reviewer for pointing out this problem. We have revised the manuscript. For sample size, because of the cross-sectional design, and we collected all eligible patients, Due to the small number of cases, the specific sample size was not calculated.

4. Result should include sociodemographic and clinical characteristics in specific manner

Response: We thank the reviewer for pointing out this problem. Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics were included in the revised manuscript.

5. The writer talk about ESBL , rate but nothing information are thier how it done

Response: In the “Method” part, we stated that Bacterial identification and drug susceptibility tests were performed using the French Bio-Merieux ATB-Expression Automatic Bacterial Identification and Drug Susceptibility Test instrument. The results were evaluated according to the 2010 recommendations of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Standardization.

To survive the effects of antibiotics, germs are constantly finding new defense strategies, called “resistance mechanisms.” For example, some Enterobacterales can produce enzymes called extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs). ESBL enzymes

break down and destroy some commonly used antibiotics, including penicillins and cephalosporins, and make these drugs ineffective for treating infections.

6. The drug should list as gram positive and gram negative bacteria to do AST according to CLSI

Response: Thank you for your comment. Drugs were not specified in the methods, but in the Table 4 and Table 5, the drugs were listed as gram positive and gram negative bacteria to do AST according to CLSI.

7. Discussion add confidence interval of the writer finding to say low or high

Response: Thanks for your suggestion, I don't quite understand what you mean, confidence intervals are not appropriate and applicable here.

8. Reference nice

Response: Thank you for your comment.

9. Grammatical issue slightly modification

Response: Thank you for your comment, We have optimized and edited the language again and again.

Reviewer #2:

The study describes retrospectively the pathogens with the relevance to antibiotic resistance in patients with cholelithiasis. A total of 185 patients with cholelithiasis were included, of which, 38 cases were tested positive for bile culture. Then the species of different pathogens were identified with their antibiotic resistant traits. The authors should try to correlate the bacterial species and their antibiotic resistance to clinical data so their relevance clinically can be evaluated. This can further improve the manuscript and may provide in-depth knowledge for further investigations.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion. Indeed, further analysis of the correlation between the bacterial species and their antibiotic resistance and clinical characteristics is help for clinical practice. But due to the small sample size, If further analysis is carried out in our cohort, statistical power and feasibility is a big problem. We will address this issue in future studies with larger sample sizes.

