

Response to Reviewers' Comments

Author Contribution Statement

Microbes, Infection, and Chemotherapy requires that all authors take public responsibility for the content of the work submitted for review. The contributions of all authors must be described in the following manner:

Thank you, we applied this format.

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Authors' contributions: The authors confirm their contribution to the paper as follows: study conception and design: Zeina Kanafani; data collection: Farah Abou Zeid, Sara Mourani, Jamil Kazma, Amal El Gharamti, Mohamad Yasmin, Salma Jabak, Tania Baban, Nisreen Sidani; analysis and interpretation of results: Zeina Kanafani; draft manuscript preparation: Jamil Kazma, and Amal El Gharamti. All authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript. All authors agreed to be responsible for all aspects of the work to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the published manuscript.

Reviewer A:

Thank you for your feedback.

Reviewer C:

1. Relevance of the title to the content of the article

The study identifies risk factors for both MRSA and MSSA, however, only MRSA is mentioned in the title. Although I understand that the problem bacteria is MRSA, the title is not fully descriptive of the study.

Thank you for your comment. We modified the title to highlight that we were also studying MSSA infections.

3. Introduction: Presentation of the subject, justification of the problem, objectives, hypotheses and methodological foundation, exposing the subject in an orderly and detailed manner

It is confusing to read from lines 39 to 53, it should be written again, risk factors for MRSA such as cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones (line 40) are described and in line 43, recent use of antibiotics, that could be written in a single paragraph. Risk factors in HIV patients should be written more concisely since it is not the specific study population.

We rearranged the introduction in line with the above comments and we deleted the extensive information about HIV patients.

7. Discussion: They present a level of critical analysis in correspondence with the problem presented. Purposes of the article, scope, support theory and proposed methodological design.

The study data is prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, where the massive use of antibiotics changed the profiles of bacterial resistance. That should be discussed and placed in the conclusions, as perhaps the risk factors and resistance profiles currently may be different.

Thank you for pointing this out. We added the following to the conclusion section: It is worth noting that the study data is prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which time the massive use of antibiotics probably modified the profiles of bacterial resistance. Therefore, further studies are needed post-pandemic in order to highlight the changes that the pandemic has brought.