RESPONSE TO MIC REVIEWER’S COMMENTS

Attached herewith is the revised manuscript, with the changes made marked in another color to facilitate the work of the reviewer.

We thank the reviewer for the comments/suggestions.

Kindly see herein responses to the comments/suggestions.

Reviewer A:

Recommendation: Revisions Required

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

Good Remarks

2. Summary: Presents the general idea of the topic, objectives, research methods, results and conclusions, written in an objective and concise manner; and are found according to the maximum number of words per section.

Regular Remarks

Not focused on reporting results according to the study objective.

Response:

The study objective was addressed in the results presented.

Only the key findings on the demographic data analysed were presented in the summary.

Only the most frequently encountered pathogens and their susceptibility profiles could be reported in the summary due to maximum word limit specified for this section.

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

Poor Remarks

It is not clearly stated the gap in teh literature that justify this study.

Response:

The justification for the study is well delineated. Kindly read the last paragraph of the introduction.

4. Methodology: Describes the procedure, methods and techniques used in data collection and analysis.
5. Ethical aspects. Does the manuscript have a paragraph on ethical aspects, where it mentions approval by the ethics committee, informed consent, and strict compliance with research ethics?

Yes

6. Results: They are presented adequately and it is not redundant with tables or graphs shown.

Good

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.

Regular

The authors focus the discussion on the prevalence of cancer in the study population even though the study is related to the microbial spectrum and susceptibility profile of opportunistic pathogens in patients with cancer

Response

Core aspects involving microbial spectrum and susceptibility profiles were certainly well-discussed.

The peculiarity of the large demographic data obtained necessitates a lucid discussion on them with respect to prevalence. Their significance in this construct cannot be eroded. However, the discussion on cancer prevalence has been considerably moderated.

8. Conclusions: Presents the author's inferences and teachings in relation to the investigated topic, it must correspond to the objectives of the study.

Poor

idem to the previous remark.

Response:

The conclusion has been improved

9. References. Quality of bibliographic references and if they are in accordance with the Vancouver format.

Good

10. Redaction. Is the manuscript correctly written? Does it contain any spelling or grammar mistakes?
Needs some language corrections

11. Contributions. What are the main weaknesses of the manuscript and how the author can do to improve it

The introduction is not explanatory about what is known and not know about the theme. It is necessary to improve the introduction and clarify what is the knowledge gap addressed. The discussion is not centered in the results according to the study aim.

Response:

Please see the last paragraph of the introduction for justification on the study.

The discussion has been improved.

Reviewer B:

The manuscript submitted for review appears interesting and relevant, however, I believe that there are still situations to be corrected.

Title: Add the country where the study was conducted.

Response: The country where study was conducted has been added.

Abstract: It is too long, it is necessary to make a more summarized presentation. Around 200 words would be fine (see indications to the authors).

Response: The abstract is now within the allowable word limit (less than 250).

Introduction: Also quite long. Focus on the data and studies that will give context to the study. The objective of the study should be explicitly described in the last paragraph.

Response: The length of the introduction has been curtailed, the aim of the study is also lucidly stated in the last paragraph.

Methods: It should start with design and population and the ethical aspects in the last paragraph.

Many of the procedures described are already frequently used and have already been described previously. Consider the use of references so as not to extend this section too much.

Response:

These suggestions have been incorporated.
Results: Avoid repeating the results shown in the table. Only mention the most relevant. Tables and figures are numbered consecutively. 1,2,3...(do not use 3.1, etc). The last part of table 1 (use of alcohol), should be joined with figures 1 and 2 and create a table that is much more understandable and adequate. Figure 3 can be perfectly described in a few words. Withdraw. The data in Figure 5 are included in Table 3 and likewise, the data in Figure 6 are in Table 4. Improve the layout of these tables and remove Figures 5 and 6.

Response: The suggestions indicated were considered, the Tables and Figures have been moderated accordingly while considering the most comprehensible outlook and avoiding ambiguous complexity as much as possible. Thank you.

References. It seems a bit exaggerated 77 references for an observational study, evaluate if all are justified.

Response: The peculiarity of the large socio-demographic data obtained and the need to lucidly discuss findings from this study necessitated this.

The final statements, COI, Ethics, Data availability, etc. are not visible.
Response : There is no conflict of interest, statement on ethics was mentioned in the study.

Reviewer C:
Recommendation: Revisions Required

1. Relevance of the title to the content of the article
Regular
Remarks
The title may include "bacterial and fungal" opportunistic pathogens in its content.
Since only blood samples were used for the study, Title should be modified to: "Microbial spectrum and susceptibility profile of opportunistic pathogens isolated from blood samples of cancer patients..."
Response :
Thank you for the suggestion. However, the title does not need to be unnecessarily verbose.
The type of sample collected is already specified in the methods. Please see section 2.3 and 2.4 of the methods.

2. Summary: Presents the general idea of the topic, objectives, research methods, results and conclusions, written in an objective and concise manner; and are found according to the maximum number of words per section.

Regular
Remarks
A paragraph about antimicrobial resistance should be included since reflects the core of the study.
Response:
Your suggestion on antimicrobial resistance has been incorporated. Thank you.

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

Regular
Remarks
A paragraph about antimicrobial resistance should be included since reflects the core of the study.
No hypothesis of antimicrobial resistance in cancer patients is observed.
Justification of the problem is clear.
Response:
Thank you for your suggestion. Information on antimicrobial resistance has been incorporated, kindly see the last paragraph in the introduction.

4. Methodology: Describes the procedure, methods and techniques used in data collection and analysis.

Regular
Remarks
Describes the methodology of ethics (informed consent for each cancer patient).
In paragraph, it is clarified that blood samples were studied. No other sample was used for the manuscript so title should be modified.
Characterization for bacterial and fungal isolates is well explained as for antimicrobial susceptibility.
Response
Modification of the title solely on the basis of sample collected will make it unnecessarily verbose

5. Ethical aspects. Does the manuscript have a paragraph on ethical aspects, where it mentions approval by the ethics committee, informed consent, and strict compliance with research ethics?
Yes
6. Results: They are presented adequately and it is not redundant with tables or graphs shown.

Regular

Remarks

It is necessary to choose whether a socio-demographic description in paragraph or a table. Same situation for susceptibility profile tables.

Response:

The data sets are well described and presented in very lucid form.

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.

Regular

Remarks

Since the main aim of the study implies antimicrobial susceptibility, description for each type of cancer may not be necessary in extension.

Response:

Studies that obtained demographic data from subjects must of necessity discuss findings with reference to prevalence amongst other epidemiological parameters. However, detailed information provided on each cancer type has been curtailed.

8. Conclusions: Presents the author's inferences and teachings in relation to the investigated topic, it must correspond to the objectives of the study.

Regular

Remarks

One finding of the study was breast cancer as the most predominant. However, it was not the intention of the manuscript since the title reflected antimicrobial susceptibility

Response

The conclusion has been improved

9. References. Quality of bibliographic references and if they are in accordance with the Vancouver format.

Regular

Remarks

10. Redaction. Is the manuscript correctly written? Does it contain any spelling or grammar mistakes?

Acceptable

11. Contributions. What are the main weaknesses of the manuscript and how the author can do to improve it
Extensive information about each type of cancer and its prevalence may be considered for removal.

Response

Total expunge of information on the cancer types and their prevalence will jeopardise the significance of the demographic data obtained. However, the information provided has been considerably moderated.

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