

## Correspondence



# Reply: Comments on the Published Meta-Analysis of Clinical and Microbiologic Efficacy and Safety of Imipenem/Cilastatin/Relebactam in Complicated Infections

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### Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest.

► See the letter “Comments on the Published Meta-Analysis of Clinical and Microbiologic Efficacy and Safety of Imipenem/Cilastatin/Relebactam in Complicated Infections” in volume 53 on page 568.

Dear Editors:

Thank you for your kind interest in our study [1]. The meta-analysis included limited studies that have reported efficacy and safety results on the imipenem/cilastatin/relebactam. One of the readers raised several questions, to which our replies are as follows. The reader correctly pointed out that there is a heterogeneity in the patient population and the control regimens in the included studies. The heterogeneity is acknowledged as a limitation in the study. In an ideal world, all included studies would have a standardized control and a homogenous patient population, but we defined our comparator as the standard of care given a limited patient population. This approach is a source of bias but unavoidable given the limited data available and is wholly acknowledged in the article. Similarly, individual bacterial pathogens and the drug's efficacy concerning them were not reported as the data available was not sufficient to draw any significant conclusions. Regarding publication bias, the funnel plot is added as a supplement to the original article (Fig. 1).

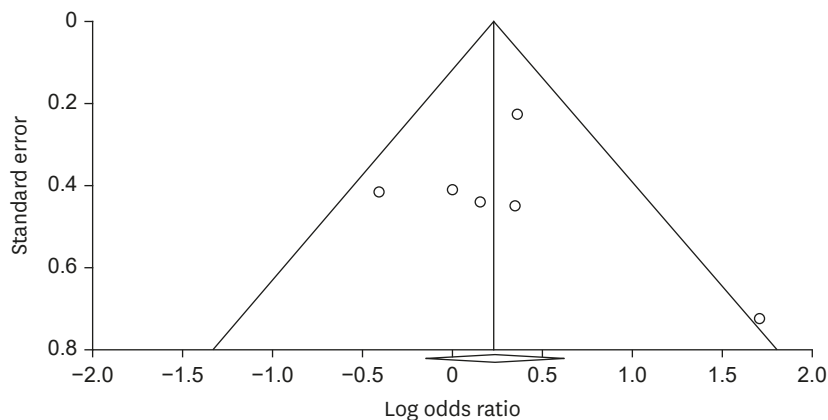


Figure 1. Funnel plot of standard error by log odds ratio.

## REFERENCES

1. Sahra S, Jahangir A, Hamadi R, Jahangir A, Glaser A. Clinical and microbiologic efficacy and safety of imipenem/cilastatin/relebactam in complicated infections: a meta-analysis. *Infect Chemother* 2021;53:271-83.

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