Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.

Journal Pre-proof

Reply to the Letter to the Editor (MS#JAAD-D-20-02442R2): "Patient preference for cellulitis treatment: at-home care is preferred to hospital-based treatment."

Colleen Gabel, BS, Lauren N. Ko, MD, MEd, Allison S. Dobry, MD, Anna Cristina Garza-Mayers, MD, PhD, Leslie W. Milne, MD, Emily Nguyen, MD, Blair Alden Parry, BA, CCRC, Adam Raff, MD, PhD, Radhika Shah, MD, PharmD, Jessica St. John, MD, MBA, MPH, Lauren Strazzula, MD, Priyanka Vedak, MD, Daniela Kroshinsky, MD, MPH

PII: S0190-9622(20)32359-8

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2020.08.007

Reference: YMJD 15058

To appear in: *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*

Received Date: 27 July 2020

Revised Date: 3 August 2020

Accepted Date: 3 August 2020

Please cite this article as: Gabel C, Ko LN, Dobry AS, Garza-Mayers AC, Milne LW, Nguyen E, Parry BA, Raff A, Shah R, St. John J, Strazzula L, Vedak P, Kroshinsky D, Reply to the Letter to the Editor (MS#JAAD-D-20-02442R2): "Patient preference for cellulitis treatment: at-home care is preferred to hospital-based treatment.", *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* (2020), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2020.08.007.

This is a PDF file of an article that has undergone enhancements after acceptance, such as the addition of a cover page and metadata, and formatting for readability, but it is not yet the definitive version of record. This version will undergo additional copyediting, typesetting and review before it is published in its final form, but we are providing this version to give early visibility of the article. Please note that, during the production process, errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

© 2020 Published by Elsevier on behalf of the American Academy of Dermatology, Inc.

Journal Pre-proof

Article type: Notes and comments: REPLY to the Letter to the Editor (MS#JAAD-D-20-02442R2)

Title: Reply to the Letter to the Editor (MS#JAAD-D-20-02442R2): "Patient preference for cellulitis treatment: at-home care is preferred to hospital-based treatment."

Authors: Colleen Gabel, BS[1]; Lauren N. Ko, MD, MEd[2]; Allison S. Dobry, MD[3]; Anna Cristina Garza-Mayers, MD, PhD[2]; Leslie W. Milne, MD[4]; Emily Nguyen, MD[1]; Blair Alden Parry, BA, CCRC[5]; Adam Raff, MD, PhD[6]; Radhika Shah, MD, PharmD[7]; Jessica St. John, MD, MBA, MPH[8]; Lauren Strazzula, MD[9]; Priyanka Vedak, MD[10]; Daniela Kroshinsky, MD, MPH[1]

[1]Department of Dermatology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts
[2]Department of Dermatology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts
[3]Department of Dermatology, University of California, Irvine School of Medicine, Irvine, California
[4]Department of Emergency Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts
[5]Department of Emergency Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts
[6]Department of Dermatology, Beth Israel Lahey Health, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
[7]Department of Dermatology, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, New Jersey
[8]Department of Dermatology, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts
[9]South Shore Skin Center, Plymouth, Massachusetts
[10]Department of Dermatology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Corresponding Author: Daniela Kroshinsky, MD, MPH
Department of Dermatology, Massachusetts General Hospital
50 Staniford Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02114 (USA)
Phone (617) 643-3884
E-mail dkroshinsky@partners.org

Funding Sources: None
Conflicts of Interest: None declared.
IRB approval status: N/A
Reprint requests: Daniela Kroshinsky, MD, MPH

Key words: Cellulitis, inpatient, treatment setting, antibiotics, home-based treatment, at-home care

Word count: 390 (max 500)
References: 5 (max 5)
Tables/Figures: 0

Journal Pre-proof

To the editor,

We thank Shaw *et al.* for their comment on our previously published research article titled "Patient preference for cellulitis treatment: at-home care is preferred to hospital-based treatment."(1) Shaw *et al.* examined whether the trend in patients evaluated at an urban tertiary care center in New York City for skin and soft tissue infections (SSTIs) was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors found that, relative to the same time period in 2019, there was a decrease in dermatology consults for SSTIs relative to other common inpatient dermatologic consults during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the underlying reason for this decrease in consults cannot be confirmed, we agree that these results suggest that patients and providers may have avoided pursuing hospital-based care for SSTIs in light of COVID-19. Likewise, we agree that outpatient treatment for cellulitis for patients whom may be good candidates for at-home therapy is important for maintaining access to care in the age of COVID-19. Furthermore, given our findings, outpatient care for appropriate patient candidates may yield high patient satisfaction.

Expanded use of teledermatology among dermatology practices(2) due to COVID-19 may additionally facilitate the outpatient treatment of cellulitis for appropriate patients. Dermatologists may similarly utilize teledermatology in the evaluation and management of inpatients hospitalized for SSTIs.(3) Shaw *et al.* suggest that patients may avoid hospital-based care for cellulitis due to concerns for COVID-19, and teledermatology may increase access to care for these patients, while simultaneously reducing the risk of transmission of infectious diseases.

Teledermatology has been recently studied in its utility specific to cellulitis, which may allow for expanded access to care. Korman *et al.* conducted a survey study demonstrating the utility of

teledermatology in both differentiating pseudocellulitis from cellulitis as well as in determining subsequent antibiotic treatment.(4)

We additionally propose that outpatient parenteral microbial therapy (OPAT) may be an effective option for patients requiring intravenous antibiotics for cellulitis and help prevent unnecessary hospital-based care. In pediatric patients, OPAT has been suggested to be effective for the treatment of moderate to severe cellulitis, with high patient satisfaction.(5) Given the current healthcare landscape, OPAT may be an increasingly attractive option for appropriate candidates.

In conclusion, we thank Shaw *et al.* for their interest in our article and for highlighting the need for expanded outpatient treatment of SSTIs for appropriate patients in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic.

REFERENCES

1. Gabel C, Ko LN, Dobry AS, Garza-Mayers AC, Milne LW, Nguyen E, et al. Patient preference for cellulitis treatment: at-home care is preferred to hospital-based treatment. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2020.
2. Perkins S, Cohen JM, Nelson CA, Bunick CG. Teledermatology in the era of COVID-19: Experience of an academic department of dermatology. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2020;83(1):e43-e4.
3. Gabel CK, Nguyen E, Karmouta R, Liu KJ, Zhou G, Alloo A, et al. Use of teledermatology by dermatology hospitalists is effective in the diagnosis and management of inpatient disease. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2020.
4. Korman AM, Kroshinsky D, Raff AB, Mostaghimi A, Micheletti RG, Rosenbach M, et al. A survey-based study of diagnostic and treatment concordance in standardized cases of cellulitis and pseudocellulitis via teledermatology. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2019.
5. Gouin S, Chevalier I, Gauthier M, Lamarre V. Prospective evaluation of the management of moderate to severe cellulitis with parenteral antibiotics at a paediatric day treatment centre. J Paediatr Child Health. 2008;44(4):214-8.