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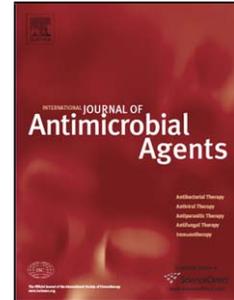
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**Authors' reply to: Re: A VIM-1 metallo- β -lactamase-producing
Klebsiella pneumoniae clinical isolate in an acute hospital in
Germany**

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In response to the comments of Shah [1] on our recent article [2], we would like to make a few statements. First of all we would like to point out that we never claimed to have described the first phenotypically carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* clinical isolate in Germany but the first confirmed carbapenem-resistant *K. pneumoniae* isolate [by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and sequencing analysis] owing to the presence of a VIM-1 metallo- β -lactamase (MBL). This was stated in the title and abstract of our article. Second, we do not follow the note that Albert-Braun and Wichelhaus described the first MBL-producing *K. pneumoniae* in Germany in 2006 [3]. They clearly state in their article that the observed phenotypic carbapenem resistance "... could so far not be assigned to any resistance mechanism and needs further molecular analysis..." Moreover, the MBL confirmation test performed on this *K. pneumoniae* isolate using inhibition/reduction of MBL activity by ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid (EDTA) [4] was negative and therefore did not confirm the presence of a MBL. The other articles by Burak et al. [5] and Timmerbeil et al. [6] mentioned in the comment were able to assign their observed carbapenem resistance in *K. pneumoniae* either to the extended-spectrum β -lactamases (ESBLs) SHV-1, TEM-1, SHV-12 and CTX-M-2 in combination with outer membrane porin loss [5] or to TEM and SHV ESBLs [6], respectively; neither of them detected a MBL. In conclusion, the statement in our article that we have described the first confirmed MBL-producing *K. pneumoniae* isolate in Germany is correct to the best of our knowledge.

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Competing interests

None declared.

Ethical approval

Not required.

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