

Authors' reply

Respuesta de los autores

To the Editor,

We appreciate the letter regarding our article.¹ We share the importance of appropriate antimicrobial use in patients admitted to hospital-at-home (HaH) programs.² In fact, at our institution, the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) is integrated into HaH,³ and it is also implemented daily in the emergency department (ED).⁴

The objective of our study was to evaluate the safety and efficacy profile of patients with infections caused by multidrug-resistant microorganisms admitted to HaH from the ED, as well as the feasibility of treatment under this model. For this reason, and due to the format of the article itself (scientific letter), we did not describe aspects such as total duration of antibiotic therapy or oral step-down therapy in our cohort.

Given the interest expressed, we provide the following data in relation to the received letter. Among patients admitted to HaH with urinary infections caused by extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing enterobacteria ($n = 45$), 44 were treated with ertapenem and 1 patient with gentamicin. The mean duration of IV antibiotic therapy was 5.6 days. We analyzed all patients who received > 4 days of IV treatment, totaling 29. Of these, 76% (22/29) had no option for oral therapy, including 3 cases of prostatitis requiring longer antibiotic duration than other urinary tract infections.⁵ Among the remaining 7 patients in whom step-down to cotrimoxazole could have been considered, 4 had moderate-to-severe chronic kidney disease, and ertapenem was maintained to reduce the risk of renal function deterioration.⁶ Therefore, only 3 patients (6.6%) could have had a shorter duration of IV antibiotic therapy. Notably, these patients, for various reasons, were not evaluated by the ASP.

The ASP, which in our center is integrated into HaH, has shown a positive impact among patients ad-

mitted from the ED with infection, as it improves the appropriateness of empirical antibiotic therapy, prioritizes antimicrobial spectrum over ease of use of certain antibiotics, and reduces both total and intravenous duration of antibiotic use.³

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