

**Supplementary Table 5** Quantile multivariate analysis on variables influencing the absolute bacterial amount form corneal samples dispensed in liquid transport medium obtained from patients with microbial keratitis

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Coefficient</b>	<b>Standard error</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Sig</b>	<b>95% confidence interval</b>	
						<b>Lower bound</b>	<b>Upper bound</b>
(Intercept)	192.319	143.8300	1.337	82	.185	-93.804	478.443
Age at disease onset	.923	2.2218	.415	82	.679	-3.497	5.343
Lesion size (mm)	64.942	29.0781	2.233	82	.028	7.096	122.787
Sampling order (ESwab last)	-77.646	65.8855	-1.178	82	.242	-208.713	53.421
No topical antibiotics prior to sampling	-7.424	88.9931	-.083	82	.934	-184.460	169.611
No contact lens wear	-4.490	80.5326	-.056	82	.956	-164.695	155.716