Reviewer's report

Title: All purulence is local - Epidemiology and management of skin and soft tissue infections in three urban emergency departments

Version: 3 Date: 25 November 2013

Reviewer: Michael David

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded to my earlier review comments well.

Minor essential revisions:
1. There are formatting issues or missing data in references 7 and 20.

2. Table 5. Please indicate in the title of the Table that the data shown are the results of univariate analyses. Now, this is stated only in the text and a footnote, but it should also be clear from examining the title of the Table.

Discretionary revisions.
1. In Table 2, please consider including the n as well as the percentage of cultures with each of the pathogens growing, even if this necessitates adding a second column for pediatric and for adults results in the table. For example, for each of the 2 age groups, there could be a single column showing the n (%) for each culture result and then a second column showing the n (%) for the number and percent that were previously treated for each culture result. This format would be easier for readers to digest, in my opinion. It would also allow you to use a different heading, such as "% previously treated" instead of the awkward "pre-treated", which, although it is defined below the table, may confuse some readers.

2. In Table 2, you might also add subheadings under "Staphylococcus aureus" for MRSA and MSSA because this distinction (already made in the text of the Results) are of interest to many readers.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.