Reviewer's report

Title: Bacteremia in Hospitalized Patients With Human Immunodeficiency Virus: A Prospective, Cohort Study

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Version: 2 Date: 25 Jul 2001

Reviewer: Dr Rita Murri

Level of interest: A paper of limited interest

Advice on publication: Reject because scientifically unsound

This is a prospective cohort study on a large HIV-infected population aimed to describe etiology of bacteremia, identify the risk factors for the development of them, and determine the impact on the outcome of patients. However, some major comments raise.

The findings of the paper are not news for interested readers. The discussion is too long and repetitive. The discussion is limited to repeat results instead of comment them and compare to the previous published papers. Particularly, section on etiologic agents should absolutely be shortened. Some of the results need a deeper explanation (i.e., differently from many other published studies, Afessa et al. did not find injection drug use, CD4 cell count and neutropenia be statistically significant determinants of blood stream infections)

446 out of 1225 patients had unidentifiable HIV transmission modality. This proportion is larger than in other populations and explanations of the missing data are mandatory in order to interpretate the results of the study. Moreover, reasons for the high prevalence of Afro Americans in the cohort should be given.

Missed data on both antiretroviral therapy and prophylaxis for opportunistic infections strongly impact on the analysis of the data.

The interesting data on survival difference between community-acquired and nosocomial bacteremia should be stressed and commented.

Minor comments:
- abstract: line 4, numbers in parenthesis need "%"
- pg. 3. The sentence starting with "The development..." is redundant.
- pg. 4. Authors should clarify "place of acquisition"
- Table 5. Data for survivors need "%" in parenthesis

**Competing interests:**

None declared.