Reviewer's report

Title: Pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic profiling of four antimicrobials against Gram-negative bacteria collected from Shenyang, China

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Reviewer: robert G masterton

Reviewer's report:

This study presents the PK/PD profiles of 4 antibiotics against 5 species of Gram negative bacteria from a single centre in China. The number of strains involved for each of the species is reasonable. The methodology is well proven and robust. The principal conclusions are that carbapenems offer the best approach to empirical therapy and that antimicrobial combinations may be needed empirically where more resistant organisms such as Acinetobacter and Pseudomonas are suspected.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Yes.

3. Are the data sound?
   Yes.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   Yes, but with some exceptions as described below.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   Yes.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
9. Is the writing acceptable?

Whereas the writing is acceptable there is a need for some editorial revisions. These are too numerous to mention in detail.

Although the study presents novel data in the sense of describing these findings for this particular institution the approach is not new and there are many publications in the literature that already demonstrate the points described by this project. Several of these are included as references. Thus the findings are primarily of local interest only though of course they do add to the global pool of such data.

Additional limitations of the study are that it does not look at the new carbapenem, doripenem, and neither does it evaluate prolonged or continuous infusion regimens.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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