Reviewer’s report

Title: Bacteremic community-acquired pneumonia due to Klebsiella pneumoniae: Clinical and microbiological characteristics in Taiwan, 2001-2008

Version: 2 Date: 15 July 2010

Reviewer: Jane Turton

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This account describes a comparison of K. pneumoniae bacteraemic CAP with S. pneumoniae bacteraemic CAP among patients in a center in Taiwan over an 8-year period, and highlights the importance of K. pneumoniae as a pathogen, particularly in that part of the world. A surprising finding was, that while K1 and K2 capsular types are commonly associated with invasive disease, they were not associated with poorer prognosis than other capsular types. The study appears to have been thoroughly and carefully carried out, and there is no reason to doubt the conclusions. A large number of patients were studied. It might have been helpful to describe the serotypes of the non K1/K2 isolates, not least to give an idea of the extent of diversity among the set (discretionary revision).

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It is surprising that the antibiograms were identical in all the isolates, although perhaps this reflects the community-acquired nature of these infections. Given the armoury of resistance genes hospital strains are gaining, and the seriousness of these infections, it is reassuring that these isolates were susceptible to a number of classes of antibiotics.

This is a thorough, well-written study, involving 95 patients, with much clinical detail, which shows that patients with K. pneumoniae CAP have a poor prognosis, and that prevalent serotypes associated with this condition are not necessarily linked with poorer outcomes. These are important observations that deserve to be published.

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.