Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 22 July 2010

Reviewer: Dennis Schröder Hansen

Reviewer's report:

The paper describes a retrospective comparison of 93 consecutive patients with bacteremic CAP; 49 patients due to K. pneumoniae and 44 patients due to S. pneumoniae. The study encompasses patients admitted to a large tertiary medical centre in Taiwan in the period 2001 to 2008.

Results confirms that K. pneumoniae still is the most common cause of bacteremic CAP in (this part) of Taiwan, making the situation very much different to what is seen almost every where else in the world. Bacteremic CAP with K. pneumoniae was even associated with higher initial rate of septic shock and respiratory failure, and had more fulminant course. Only K-serotyping for K1 (14.3%) and K2 (38.8%) were done; thus 47% of isolates were K-type non-typeable.

Despite general objections to data quality in retrospective studies, studies like the present is important in identifying topics for later more focused prospective studies or mechanical/molecular basic studies.

Improvement of present paper could include virulence factor characterisation (FX hyper-mucoviscosity, present of rmpA gene, aerobactin production) of all isolates and K-serotyping of the non-K1/K2 isolates.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS

(Discussion, 3rd and 4th paragraphs) “..bacteremic CAP in South Africa...” seems redundant, could be shorter.

MINOR ESSENTIALS REVISION

(Patient selection) Reference for used CAP definition should be provided.

MAJOR COMPULSARY REVISION

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests