Reviewer's report

**Title:** Prevalence and acquisition of MRSA amongst patients admitted in a tertiary-care hospital in Brazil

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 April 2010

**Reviewer:** jan A kluytmans

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper describes the carriage rate of MRSA on admission to the hospital and the subsequent acquisition rate during hospitalization. The main message is the high rate of carriage on admission which could be described much shorter.

1) The carriage rate on admission is very high. One of the risk factors is previous hospitalization. There is no further specification on the hospitalization (how long ago and how long) and if MRSA had been identified before. This information is essential to this paper.

The methodology of the microbiology is weak. Only a nasal swab was taken and no broth enrichment was used. Therefore, a substantial proportion of the carriers may have been missed. Although the authors comment on this in the discussion I think it is a serious limitation of the study.

2) there are no risk factors identified for acquisition so Table 2 can be deleted and incorporated in the text.

The nomenclature for the epidemiological methods used for the acquisition study is not correct. The "incidence analysis" should be replaced by "incidence density".

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

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'