Reviewer's report

Title: How often is a work-up for Legionella pursued in patients with pneumonia? A retrospective study.

Version: 2 Date: 2 August 2011

Reviewer: Bertrand Renaud

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

I am very sorry for the delay of sending back my review.

I have been very pleased to review the revised version of the manuscript entitled: “How often is a work-up for Legionella pursued in patients with pneumonia? A retrospective study.” I thank the authors for addressing most of my comments.

Major revisions:

However, in spite of those modifications of the original manuscript, I think a more specific description of study patient characteristics, overall and within all subgroups would have been of great interest. It appears that this information is not available for the overall study population or would be too time consuming to collect. Therefore, I wonder if the authors would be able to present the baseline characteristics of the restricted subgroup of patients with Legionella pneumonia, and then to compare patients presenting with at least one IDSA/ATS criteria to those that did not present such criteria. Additionally, I would suggest presenting the results for hospital acquired and non hospital acquired pneumonia separately.

Minor revisions:

- Please specify in the method section the 5 IDSA/ATS criteria proposed for guiding physician in prompting legionella diagnostic testing, along with the definition of “immunosuppression”, and “hyponatremia”
- Page 4, paragraph 2: Please alter “Legionella testing” for “Legionella diagnostic testing”, to be consistent with the expression used in the abstract.
- Please specify how patients with pneumonia were identified? Be more specific. Did the authors select patient records using medical information codification system?
- Page 5: “Theradoc® was used prospectively”. Given this study was retrospective, I did not understand the exact meaning of this sentence and if this is a useful information. Please, specify.
- Page 6: “Legionella pneumonia was diagnosed at an outside hospital but the legionella…..”. Please specify the reason why this patient was excluded. Indeed, this reason was not mentioned in the method section.
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'