Reviewer’s report

Title: Retrospective study of Necrotizing Fasciitis and Characterization of Its Associated Oxacillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus

Version: 1 Date: 23 June 2011

Reviewer: Hao Yu

Reviewer’s report:

The paper “Retrospective study of Necrotizing Fasciitis and Characterization of Its Associated Oxacillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus” by Changchien et al. characterized antibiotic susceptibility and the distribution of virulence factors of necrotizing fasciitis associated ORSA strains. They showed that ORSA strains are increasingly prevalent in NF clinical isolates. This study also suggested that several chronic diseases might predispose patients to NF. This report would be a very important reference for future clinical treatment of ORSA associated NF.

My biggest concern is that there are many typos and grammar mistakes. For example:

1. P13, line 7 “In this study, we found that Patients with HA-ORSA infection tended to having severe clinical characteristics in comorbidity, hospitalization days, amputation rate, and involvement of lower extremities A was more virulent than those with CA-ORSA infection.”

I guess what authors want to express here is that: “In this study, we found that patients with HA-ORSA infection tended to have severe clinical characteristics in comorbidity, hospitalization duration, amputation rate, and involvement of lower extremities, suggesting that HA-ORSA was more virulent than CA-ORSA”.

2. P4, line 11, please rewrite sentence of “as the most prevalent…….”

3. P5, line 5, “an MRSA” should be “a MRSA”

4. P5, line 13, please rewrite “TSST-1 can cause in part a desquamative skin rash, …..”

5. P10, line 3, please rewrite “The prevalence of monomicrobial infection larger than……..” This sentence is very hard to understand. It would be more readable if “larger than” was changed to “over”.

6. P10, line 14, “those infected by (2.8 vs. 1.3)” should be “those infected by CA-ORSA (2.8 vs. 1.3)”

7. P11, line 8, “was significant difference” should be “was significantly different” or “had significant difference”. This also applies to P 12, line 9.

8. P12, line 4, please rewrite “Further the association…..”

Above are some apparent typos or grammar mistakes that I was able to pick up. Please read and check the language carefully. A native English speaker would be very helpful in improving the writing.
Some minor comments:

1. In the abstract, authors stated that:” other virulence factors TSST-1, ETA, and ETB of MRSA may be not the main virulence determinant for NF.” I understand that those above mentioned virulence genes are not prevalent in that given set of ORSA isolates. However, this does not necessary mean that those virulence genes are not prevalent or important to other ORSA isolates identified in different time period and regions.

2. Too many abbreviations would be inconvenient to readers. I would encourage authors try to make a reader-friendly version.

3. Be consistent with abbreviations. Although oxacillin and methicillin are the same class of antibiotics, ORSA and MRSA refer to the same type of antibiotic resistance, it is unnecessary to change between ORSA and MRSA frequently, which would confuse readers.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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