Reviewer's report

Title: Empiric guideline-recommended weight-based vancomycin dosing and mortality in methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteremia: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 4 January 2012

Reviewer: Albert Lessing

Reviewer's report:

1. This paper by Ronald Hall II and coworkers is a good paper and should be accepted for publication.

2. The question, regarding vancomycin-dose comparisons, is well defined and addressed by the study.

3. The authors accept the weakness of this retrospective study (and other studies). A large number of cases had to be excluded.

4. The title, abstract and writing is clear and well defined.

5. In passing I made two clinical observations:

First, the 'non-survivor'-group were more likely to have a bloodstream-catheter-related infection, compared to the surviving group, which is an important observation..

Secondly, of the 'documented sources', deep infection caused by bone (1.2%) which appear a small number and no documented endovascular sources including infective endocarditis. This is not a criticism - and may well have occurred in the cases excluded.

End.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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.