Reviewer’s report

Title: Inadequate treatment of ventilator-associated and hospital-acquired pneumonia: Risk factors and impact on outcomes

Version: 1 Date: 19 March 2012

Reviewer: Paulo Teixeira

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting paper not due to its originality but because the authors show the risk factors for inadequate treatment in hospital-acquired pneumonia and not only in ventilator-associated pneumonia.

The question is well defined, the methods appropriated and well described and the data were well analyzed. The limitations of the study are clear. The discussion is well done and conclusions are supported by the data.

Major Essencial Revision

Material and Methods: Definitions – Qualitative cultures of respiratory samples obtained at the time of diagnosis were also used to diagnose pneumonia. But in microbiological data the cultures were quantitative. Please, clarify the methodology to analyze respiratory samples. If in some cases you accepted qualitative cultures and another cases quantitative cultures to diagnosis HAP or VAP, they must be specified. Have the patients with HAP, not VAP, been accessed by APACHE? Reading the paper it seems they have. In what moment? On admission to the hospital or in the moment that HAP were diagnosed?

Minor Essencial Revision

1. Results: Totally 103 microbiological pathogens were isolated from 94 patients and the isolated pathogens were presented in table 4 and not 3

2. Results: The regimens of empiric antibiotics are summarized in Table 3 and not 4

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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.