Reviewer's report

Title: Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus nasal carriage among patients receiving hemodialysis in Taiwan: prevalence rate, molecular characterization and de-colonization

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Reviewer: Marc J Bonten

Reviewer's report:

The authors have investigated the molecular epidemiology of MRSA nasal carriage in haemodialysis patients in 2 hospitals in Taiwan, as well as the effects of topical treatment.

The major problem with the study is that it's design is unclear. What is meant with the first and second survey? This must be described more clearly. The other aspect is that follow-up of topical treatment should consist of several samples, usually taken with some interval (see 2 papers of Ammerlaan et al in Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy 2012). This seems not to be the case in this study.

And although analyzed with the appropriate methods, the information of genotyping of 20 MRSA isolates in 2 hospitals in Taiwan may be relevant for local epidemiology, it does not provide relevant information for the broader audience.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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'