Reviewer's report

Title: Adherence to recommendations by infectious disease consultants and its influence on outcomes of intravenous antibiotic-treated hospitalized patients

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Reviewer: Elodie Sellier

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study showing the effectiveness of infectious disease recommendations.

Major compulsory revisions

- There are a lot of statistical tests and multiple comparisons. There are also many tables. It is due to the fact that authors always perform a lot of comparisons (group with intervention vs group without intervention and according to the three groups of adherence). So the readers might be lost in such amounts of results. Maybe it would be clearer if the authors could group together partial and non-adherence and compare with complete adherence or group partial and complete and compare with non-adherence.

- The authors chose a threshold for statistical significance <0.001. However, they report several differences with p>0.001 as if there were statistically significant (Results, paragraphs 2, 3, 5, 7, 8) in the bivariate but also in the multivariable analysis.

- The way the authors chose to select the variables in the logistic regression models is not clear enough. A step-wise procedure (I suppose backward) was performed to select the variables independently associated with adherence or clinical success but they also report that the models showing the highest R2 were considered.

- In the first paragraph of Results, 1185 patients were randomized but 1173 patients were finally considered. In the figure 1, we understand that 12 patients were excluded because they had an ID consultation. I think that it would have been better not to exclude them and to perform an intention-to-treat analysis as it is recommended in randomized trial. The authors should add this fact as a limit.

- Table 7: in the footnote it is written that success was used as depend variable but results are not reported that way. Eg: nosocomial infection has an OR of 4.12 and authors write that it is associated with clinical failure.

Minor essential revisions

- The authors should explain how was assess the clinical success: based on which criteria?
- The authors should define nosocomial infection and healthcare infection

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I have no competing interests