Reviewer's report

Title: A randomized trial of tigecycline versus ampicillin-sulbactam or amoxicillin-clavulanate for the treatment of complicated skin and skin structure infections

Version: 1 Date: 9 January 2012

Reviewer: Warren Rose

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Vancomycin could be added to the comparator regimen if MRSA was suspected or confirmed. This agent could be dose adjusted per local guidelines as described. Some universal guideline should have been applied given what is recommended for use and monitoring of vancomycin (Rybak et al Am J Health Syst Pharm. 2009 Jan 1;66(1):82-98). A general description of local guidelines should be given.
2. Subjects could not receive more than 24 hours of prior antibiotic therapy, unless they were a failure on prior antibiotic therapy. What was considered prior antibiotic therapy failure?
3. Did any patients have bacteremia as a result of cSSSI. A low percentage of patients with cSSTI have concomitant bacteremia (<5%), but this would be relevant to know if this occurred in this study since tigecycline achieves very low serum concentrations. If so, it would be prudent to exclude these patients.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. MIC testing was done by broth microdilution and Kirby-Bauer. Later the authors present MIC90 values of 1 mg/L for vancomycin. Kirby-Bauer is no longer an acceptable method for vancomycin testing with S. aureus. Please confirm if this MIC90 number represents that found with broth microdilution.
2. Was there a tertiary reviewer for clinical efficacy determination or was this determined by the treating physician?

Discretionary Revisions
1. Having a vancomycin MIC90 of 1 does not constitute creep as the authors indicate. Consider revising this statement.
2. The discussion states that in previous studies, all-cause mortality has been observed in the tigecycline clinical program. It would be useful to elaborate on this to include what groups have increased mortality.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

Yes, speaker’s honoraria and grant support from Cubist.