Reviewer's report

Title: An outbreak of multidrug-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii associated with bronchofiberscopy in an intensive care unit in Beijing, China

Version: 3 Date: 10 October 2012

Reviewer: Anke Kohlenberg

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions
1. I thank the authors for addressing the comments regarding the content of the manuscript very thoroughly and adequately. However, a few problems have remained with the quality of the written English in the presentation of the data. Some of the paragraphs of the manuscript are still so difficult to read that it compromises the understanding of the results of this study. For example, in the abstract, methods/results section it does not become clear how cases were defined for the case-control-study and data regarding the groups of patients carrying MDR-Ab, cases with the outbreak strain, cases and controls receiving bronchoscopy, and bacterial isolates recovered from patients and the environment are presented in a confusing way.

Similar problems with the text are found in the results section page 11, second paragraph: “26 of 78 environmental strains were MDR-Ab positive”. Please check the whole manuscript for the correct use of the word “strain”, there seems to be confusion between sample, isolate and strain in some places. In addition, the description of the intervention in the results section on page 12 and the discussion, second paragraph on page 13, and the second and third paragraphs on page 14 “healthcare worker-related environmental surfaces” need to be revised. Please try to rephrase these paragraphs in a better understandable way. Please also check the whole text of the manuscript again for grammar and spelling.

2. In addition, in the first paragraph of the results section in the revised manuscript a statement about the significant increase of the incidence of MDR-Ab in the epidemic period was added, but it is not clear what has been compared (cases per month?) and with which statistical test. Please clarify.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

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.