Reviewer's report

**Title:** Dynamics of Enterococcus faecium Clones Colonizing Hospitalized Patients: data from a prospective observational study

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 23 December 2011

**Reviewer:** Rama Narayana Deepak

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript has been extensively rewritten to be much clearer, and the figures have been revised so that they are accurate and consistent. I am happy to recommend acceptance of the manuscript.

However, please make the following two minor corrections:

1) On page 7, rephrase that section about antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Suggested phrasing:

"For invasive isolates, minimal inhibitory concentrations (MICs) for ampicillin and vancomycin were determined using the semiautomated microdilution assay system (Micronaut, Merlin, Bornheim-Hersel, Germany). Isolates from rectal swabs were plated onto Enterococcus Agar (Becton-Dickinson, Sparks, MD, USA) containing 60mg/L aztreonam and 16mg/L ampicillin to determine ampicillin susceptibility. Growth (indicating ampicillin resistance) was determined after 48 hours of incubation in aerobic conditions."

Immediately following this, please state the breakpoints (R and S, or R, I and S as the case may be) used for ampicillin and vancomycin resistance. You should also reference the standard you're quoting, be it CLSI or EUCAST. In CLSI, vancomycin for enterococcus has an intermediate category, but this may not be relevant to you (even if you used CLSI) since all your invasive isolates were fully susceptible to vancomycin. I leave the phrasing of this to your discretion, but it's important to state the breakpoints you're using (so that you make your study comparable to other work) and give the reference.

2) On page 18, please correct the spelling of "Funding".

That's all. Thank you for making the revisions as previously suggested, good luck and merry Christmas.

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

**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.