Reviewer's report

Title: Nasal and perirectal colonization of vancomycin sensitive and resistant enterococci in patients of paediatrics ICU (PICU) of tertiary health care facilities

Version: 2 Date: 1 October 2012

Reviewer: Bin Cao

Reviewer's report:

The authors reported the high colonization ratio of VRE and VSE among pediatric patients in a single hospital. But the data of link between infection and colonization was limited according to the data the authors presented in the paper.

Major comments:

1. Background: The significance of the study was not clearly introduced. Whether VRE nosocomial infections have caused severe disease burden in the hospital? Have they experienced VRE or VSE outbreak in PICU in this hospital? As they have isolated VRE and VSE in this PICU, what will they do next, such as isolation of colonized patients, hand hygiene?

2. Methods: At the beginning, the authors should describe this was a prospective microbiological surveillance study. The authors should report how they choose the patients in PCIU for collection of swabs, what are the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the study?

3. Discussion: The most interesting finding of the study is the difference of VRE and VSE colonization between rural and urban area. But the authors did not discuss fully about it. The authors found patients with pneumonia and miscellaneous group were more likely to be colonized with VRE or VSE. But also the authors did not discuss in this part.

4. Statistics: The comparison of VRE and VSE isolation ratio between rural and urban area should be described in statistic methods part.

Minor comments:

1. misspelling: Abstract part 1: pathogne should be pathogen
2. MIC determination method: disc diffusion method and agar dilution method was described in abstract, but not in Methods part.
3. Figures 1-3 did not give more information than text. They can be removed from the paper.
4. Table 4 was not reported cleared and should be re-written.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declared that I have no competing interests.

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