Reviewer's report

Title: Identification of vancomycin-resistant enterococci clones and inter-hospital spread during an outbreak in Taiwan

Version: 2 Date: 21 January 2013

Reviewer: Jann-Tay Wang

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Major compulsory revisions:
Molecular typing (MLST and PFGE) should be done and compared within the same bacterial species. ST 414 of E. faecium is absolutely not the same as ST 414 of E. faecalis. Authors described that "Overall, 38 VRE isolates were typed as ST type 414" in Page 10 is not adequate. Also, that they compared the PFGE banding pattern of E. faecium, E. faecalis, and E. durans together (Page 10) is also inadequate. These should be corrected (describing the results of molecular typing separately according to different species and should not pooling the results together).

Minor Essential Revisions
Page 6 Line 5 - 7, please provide the data to support the description that " a VRE outbreak was suspected in the nephrology ward because the prevalence rate was higher than the average rate in Taiwan". What is the average rate in Taiwan?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
There is no competing interest.