Reviewer’s report

Title: Prediction of Methcillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in patients with non-nosocomial pneumonia

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2013

Reviewer: Bin Cao

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the interesting paper for investigating the predictors for MRSA non-hospitalized pneumonia, including CAP and HCAP. I think the paper has important clinical significance for both Korean doctors and doctors in other countries. But some modification should be done to improve the quality of the paper.

Introduction: clear.

Methods:
1. It is not clear about the microbiological methods used in this retrospective cohort study. Single Serology test is not enough for identification of Mycoplasma infection.
2. It is not clear how the scoring system was created, is there any references to support the authors’ calculation?

Results:
1. As a reader, I will be very interested in the distribution of pathogens except MRSA in this institution, including Streptococci, MSSA, Mycoplasma, legionella, Gram negative bacilli, et al.
2. There is no significance for recent hospitalization in multivariate analysis. I would like to delete this factor.
3. Again, I am a little puzzled by the scoring system. It is ambitious to figure out a model to pick up patients suspected to have MRSA pneumonia based on only a limited number of cases. I would like to omit this part.

To my opinion, without scoring system, the paper still has value to be published.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.