Reviewer’s report

Title: Trough colistin plasma level is an independent risk factor for nephrotoxicity: a prospective observational cohort study

Version: 6 Date: 29 April 2013

Reviewer: NIKOLAOS MARKOU

Reviewer’s report:

This is a fine paper and my comments have now been adequately answered. I still have some observations to make:

Major comment:
Page 12: Cmin as categorical and continuous variable: In fact in ROC analysis Cmin is not evaluated as a categorical but as continuous variable. Also in table 7 Cmin is not evaluated as a continuous variable but is transformed to categories on the basis of arbitrarily defined cut-off points. The definition of these categories on the basis of quartiles or quintiles would be more appropriate. Then an appropriate statistic should be applied (x2 test, linear by linear statistics). A bar chart might also be informative.

Minor observations:
Page 6, 1st paragraph, lines 6-11: probably the phrase “AKI during CMS treatment … after # 4 days of CMS therapy” should follow the phrase “the RIFLE criteria … for stratification of AKI”.
Please recheck reference numbers. For example in page 15 instead of ref 30, ref 29. What about references 30-32?
Table 2: Patients with CKD-superscripts: instead of 2 , 3. Also check the superscripts in table 6.

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.