Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology of bloodstream infections in patients with acute myeloid leukemia undergoing levofloxacin prophylaxis

Version: 2 Date: 1 June 2013

Reviewer: Carlota Gudiol

Reviewer's report:

Antibacterial prophylaxis in neutropenic cancer patients is a quite controversial issue in the literature. In some articles it does appear to be beneficial in reducing the rate of infections due to gram-negative microorganisms, but it has not been always associated with an improved outcome by reducing mortality rates. Furthermore, the potential antibacterial resistance development is of great concern.

Despite this, this article involving patients with AML receiving levofloxacin prophylaxis does not provide anything new to the previous published literature.

This article has a major drawback, which is its retrospective nature.

Furthermore, the article is quite incomplete. Some important information is lacking:

- How was the prophylaxis with levofloxacin used? Which doses? When was it started and discontinued?
- What were the other clinical characteristics of the patients in the study?
- How long did the neutropenia last?
- How many patients received a haematopoietic stem cell transplant for consolidation therapy? How many were autologous, and how many were alogeneic?
- Did patients receive antifungal prophylaxis?
- Did the patients carry a central venous catheter in both induction and consolidation phases?
- When were the ESBL producers isolated? In the second period?

On the other hand, it's difficult to believe that the differences in the microorganisms isolated in the induction and consolidation phases are only due to the use of levofloxacin in the induction cycle.

No information regarding any clinical outcome such as mortality is reported in the study.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no interests