Reviewer's report

Title: Emergence of sporadic non-clustered cases of hospital-associated listeriosis among immunocompromised adults in southern Taiwan from 1992 to 2013: effect of precipitating immunosuppressive agents

Version: 3 Date: 4 March 2014

Reviewer: Sarah Taimur

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Minor Essential Revisions:

Line 63:
Would reword “listeriosis during pregnancy” since not a clinical manifestation in itself - as that in itself comprises of a spectrum of manifestations. Just like you state later in the same sentence “sepsis and meningitis in newborns” could reword the “listeriosis during pregnancy” to state instead the most common manifestation of listeriosis seen in pregnant women.

Line 69:
Would reword as the current stated is not clear. Would state the manifestations in the immunocompromised host in order from most common to least common (see cited reference) - for example: Patient with immunocompromised states tend to have bacteremia without localized infection, CNS infection with coma or encephalitis or focal infection.

Line 158:
Since you looked at both adult and pediatric cases, important to add here that you did not find during your review any cases of non-perinatal infection in children. It is important to highlight that as during your review of cases of listeriosis; you looked at all age groups and did not find non-perinatal cases in children.

Line 189:
Would be consistent here in stating n and %. Would add % for meningitis, brain abscess and septic arthritis.

Line 261:
I agree that education of doctors/clinicians about manifestations of listeriosis might help. Would state a little more about other future directives here. Alongside clinician education initiatives, could this be an opportunity for antimicrobial stewardship programs to direct therapy to more appropriate agents when listeriosis is suspected?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests