Reviewer's report

Title: A prospective observational study of the prevalence and risk factors for colonization by antibiotic resistant bacteria in patients at admission to hospital in Singapore

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Reviewer: Celia Manaia

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This work reports the search for the occurrence of three groups of antibiotic resistant bacteria in patients at admission in a hospital, and tries to identify relevant risks factors for its occurrence. The study has some weaknesses, some of which are discussed by the authors. The methods used to detect the antibiotic resistant bacteria in study may be not the best and were not tested or validated. This fact may affect the results and the conclusions. In spite of this, the study is interesting for its general experimental design and preliminary results.

Some specific comments below:

The conclusion of the abstract is not in agreement with the rest of the manuscript;

The use of the expression multidrug resistant is not appropriate in this study since, no multiple drug resistance was studied or detected;

How many patients and how were they monitored again after Hospital admission? Please give these numbers and described the procedures used;

How can the authors say they had MRSA without mecA testing? The procedure used in not adequate and mecC should be tested. Please note that there are coagulase positive staphylococci other than S. aureus;

Figure 1 can be deleted as it does not add anything new to the results presented in the tables.

The results observed in this study should be discussed based on studies of resistance prevalence and incidence in the community and healthcare facilities in Singapore.

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