Reviewer’s report

Title: Antimicrobial susceptibilities of Proteus mirabilis: a longitudinal nationwide study from the Taiwan Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (TSAR) Program

Version: 2 Date: 1 July 2014

Reviewer: Nicholas Boire

Reviewer’s report:

The authors of this publication reported on the antimicrobial susceptibilities of Proteus mirabilis from data compiled from the Taiwan Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (TSAR) program. Generally, many antibiotic resistances increased over the decade, with additional increases in ESBL genes throughout. Overall, this article is well-written and merits publication, with suggested minor revision.

Minor Comments
1) Methods
   a. Isolate Collection - For those unfamiliar with the geography of Taiwan, a simple map highlighting the locations of the 26 participating hospitals would be appreciated. Furthermore: Were there any patterns associated regarding resistance/susceptibility based on geographic area?
   b. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing - adding a reference for the CLSI guidelines would be appreciated (line 123.) Additionally, the antibiotics listed should include their manufacturers. If acquired from different sources, include this information.

This paper is simple in its premise and execution. The authors sufficiently demonstrated the changes in antibiotic susceptibility in Pm over time. While additional information would be appreciated, including thoughts for the reason of increased AmpC b-lactamase prevalence, the authors themselves acknowledge that it is outside the scope of this article. The comparison using the updated CLSI breakpoints was appropriate, and appreciated.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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