Reviewer's report

Title: Clostridium difficile carriage in hospitalized cancer patients: A prospective investigation in eastern China

Version: 2 Date: 10 August 2014

Reviewer: shahnaz armin

Reviewer's report:

Dear colleague:

Abstract: Line 33: To identify the immunological and clinical factors associated with Clostridium difficile infection in cancer patients. The title states 'carriage'!

Method: Line 35: Please make it clear if the patients were under treatment with chemotherapy or not (first admission for start therapy)

Background: Line 70: The authors have compared patients with and without diarrhea; it is not clear if they have taken diarrhea as a sign of C. difficile infection? The title mentions C. difficile 'carriage'.

Methods: Line 79-80: Were the patients admitted in a single hospital? Had they been transferred from other centers?

Methods: Line 92: Were stool specimens taken from all patients and checked for evidence of colitis. The authors have put patients into different categories according to CBC and serum creatinine, but the result of stool exam is missing. We cannot discuss C. difficile associated colitis without the results of the stool exam.

Results: Line 160: The authors state that the isolated C. difficile were all 'non-toxigenic'! was there any pathogens A+ / B+ ?. Did the authors perform PCR for Ted A+/ Ted B- or Ted B+/Ted A-? If all ao them non toxicogenic ,how you correlate the presence of CD with diarrhea? Did they check for 'Binary Toxin' or cytopathic effect?

Methods: Line 163: Since only 20 patients had diarrhea, they cannot be compared with 380 patients without diarrhea.

Results: Line 190-191: The authors have compared the average albumin level in CD+ and CD- groups. Since the comparison is between 82 specimens on one hand and 318 specimens on the other, it is better to compare the Median values instead of the Mean levels.

Results Line 196: WBC count was not different between the CD+ and CD- groups; you should check the CD and other immunological markers in patients with leukopenia and compare the levels with patients having normal WBC.

Discussion: in general, in this part every finding should be compare with same orosostresultin another study, please revise this part.

Do you have any data about colonization rate of CD in normal population. If you
have include this

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

**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' below.