Reviewers report

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

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**Reviewer:** Emilio Maseda

**Reviewer's report:**

Fang et al. Clostridium difficile carriage in hospitalized cancer patients. A prospective investigation in Eastern China

The authors present interesting epidemiological data about Clostridium difficile carriage in patients from China. The paper is well written and focuses on important and timely topic. More than 90% of the C. difficile-positive patients had no symptoms but they can contribute to C. difficile transmission in hospitals.

There are some suggestions in order to improve the quality of the submitted manuscript:

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

The authors should give more information on the participating hospitals (number of beds, patients treated per year, etc.). The samples of patients weren’t homogenously distributed between the hospitals. Most of the samples obtained were from Zhejiang University (359) and this fact could impact on the outcomes of this study.

Can the authors provide any rationale about why no relation was found between the C. difficile-positive rate and antibiotic treatment? The authors should provide data on patients who needed antibiotic treatment, kinds of antibiotics, etc.

Furthermore, the authors should also give more information about clinical factors usually related on C. difficile-positive rate (patients treated with PPI, number of patients with gastroenterological surgery, etc)

**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'