Reviewer's report

Title: NDM-1 metallo-beta-lactamase and ArmA 16S rRNA methylase producing Providencia rettgeri clinical isolates in Nepal

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Reviewer: Musa Y Hindiyeh

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Comments:

Manuscript title: NDM-1 metallo-blactamase and ArmA 16S rRNA methylase producing Providencia rettgeri clinical isolates in Nepal. Corresponding author: Dr. Teruo Kirikae.

The authors reported the characterization of 5 P. rettgeri isolated from patient samples in Nepal.

While the topic of the paper is interesting topic, the reviewer has major concerns with the manuscript as presented.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The paper needs major English language editing. There were repetitions of sentences as in lines 63-65 and lines 65-57. Some of the information presented was very confusing such as on lines 43, 45, 53-54, 95.

2. The paper as presented is long and can be shortened. The reviewer recommends that the authors restructure the paper to a short report or letter to the editor.

3. The authors need to clarify how many isolates they are trying to characterize. On line 43, the authors indicated that that they obtained 5 isolates, however, one lines 73-75, the authors mention that the are describing a total of 4 isolates (We describe here 3 P. rettgeri isolates producing NDM-1 and ArmA and 1 isolate producing OXA-72 and ArmA from a hospital in Nepal. Please clarify.

4. Lines 42-46. In the methods section of the abstract, please better clarify the methodologies used in the study. Did the authors use next generation sequencing? If so, which platform? Please add that the CLSI guidelines were followed. Why the authors did not report the ertapenem results of these isolates? Isn't ertapenem recommended by the CLSI to detect carbapenemase producing bacteria?

5. Table 1 is poorly presented. The reviewer could not see the whole table. The isolates name where not indicated on the table.

6. Line 168. In the discussion, the authors need to review the activity of
blaTEM-1. blaTEM-1 is a beta-lactamase similar to blaTEM-2. It is not an extended spectrum beta lactamases. Thus blaTEM-1 can not be the enzyme responsible for inactivating ceftazidime and cefepime, ext....

7. In the discussion section, the authors need to discuss the data in the context of what was reported in other parts of the World. The authors need to address if these isolates were a result of hospital acquired infections.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Please move lines 73-75 to the end of the background section and elaborate a bit about what the goal of the paper is.
2. Line 45-46 of the abstract methods section, please clarify. Epidemiological analysis is a very general term. Please be specific when talking about PFGE.
3. Lines 95-96 of the bacterial strains sections of the methods, please clarify which identification system was used to phenotypically used to identify the bacteria.
4. Lines 156-160 of the Genomic structure section. Please clarify what was actually done. Please add a reference for the methodology used.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'