Reviewer's report

Title: Toxicity after prolonged (more than four weeks) administration of intravenous colistin

Version: 1 Date: 28 October 2004

Reviewer: Anna S Levin

Reviewer's report:

General

This is an interesting report of the adverse effects of colistin when used for long periods of time. Although it is a retrospective non-comparative study and included a relatively small number of patients (17) the results deserve to be published as nephrotoxicity was not an important problem.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

- Page 5, 1st paragraph: The last 2 sentences are not clear and need rephrasing.
- Results in Table 1 are presented as means and standard deviations. I feel that as the number of patients is small, it would be interesting to present the median and range.
- The definitions of infections used were not presented. Although this is not a crucial point, it would be interesting to know how infections were defined: only by the attending physician or if other definitions were used. Were all isolation sites considered when defining the agent of the infection?
- In figures 1 and 2 it was not stated what the "brackets" and other horizontal lines represent.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None.