Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiological Characteristics of Nosocomial Infection in a Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU), South Korea

Version: 2 Date: 24 April 2006

Reviewer: Mark F Fredric

Reviewer's report:

General
1) Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   a) The author addresses an important problem, which is not new, but continues to result in morbidity mortality and increased costs. The methodology is adequate. It is reasonable for units to report their own data
2) Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
   a) The methods are reasonable. The Total Parenteral Nutrition Policy of the unit should be given and also, if possible, information and policy about intravenous lines and devices
   b) Is there information about necrotizing enterocolitis? This could be considered nosocomial
3) The output data is reasonable
   a) Some information should be given about underlying diagnosis necessitating ICU admission.
   b) Is there information about antibiotic resistance patterns?
4) Discussion and conclusions
   a) EKC should be defined. I am unable to understand why epidemic conjunctivitis should not be a NI.
   b) What is a “venous” infection? Is it “thrombophlebitis”?
5) The writing is reasonable considering that English is not the first language but it can be considerably improved.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
Á· Provide background information about underlying diagnosis, policy on intravascular devices and intravenous and enteral nutrition
Á· Discussion about EKC should be changed. EKC must be spread nosocomially

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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)
Á· Define EKC
Á· Figure 1 â€œConjunctivitisâ€ incorrectly spelled
Á· Define a “venous” infection

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Á· Provide information about necrotizing enterocolitis in the patients

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

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