Reviewer's report

Title: Antibacterial resistance and their genetic location in MRSA isolated in Kuwait hospitals, 1994-2004.

Version: 1 Date: 27 October 2006

Reviewer: alasdair macgowan

Reviewer's report:

General
This manuscript describes the antimicrobial susceptibility of over 5,000 MRSA isolates over a 10 year period in Kuwait. Isolates were referred from clinical laboratories to a central laboratory for further testing and genetic characterisation.

The publication has several strengths and points of interest:-

(a) Standard susceptibility methods were used.

(b) Large numbers of isolates were collected over a 10 year period meaning that trends were significant.

(c) Genetic characterisation was carried out.

(d) Antimicrobial resistance data from the Gulf State is limited.

The publication has a number of weaknesses:-

(a) Potential bias in the collection of isolates was not assessed.

(b) Typing data on clonality of MRSA in Kuwait would have added interest.

In addition, further work to link the changes in susceptibility observed to changes in antibiotic use would be of considerable interest.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept without revision

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.