Reviewer's report

Title: In vitro evaluation of antibiotics combinations for empirical therapy of suspected methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus severe infections

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2007

Reviewer: Stefania Stefani

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper deals with in vitro test of antimicrobial combinations by using "popular" methodologies, i.e. CK and TK, for which it should be clearly kept in mind that can lead to different conclusions. The question posed by the Authors could be of interest, but some points need to be addressed.

1) The title does not reflect the content of the manuscript, that describes an in vitro study of combinations against MRSA.
2) There is no information on the results obtained if we compare the two methods.
3) The AA did not include rifampin, that is a drug of choice in combination in case of MRSA infections, or linezolid, as suggested in the guidelines.
4) Tables 4 and 5 can be eliminated as well as the corresponding part in the text. The reason is that we can talk of induction of mutation with antibiotics that can induce mutations on the DNA target of their action (and that is true for fluoroquinolones). Can the AA explain the induction of "mutation" for antibiotics such as glycopeptides?

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

1) Change the title
2) Eliminate tables 4 and 5 and the corresponding text
3) State the number of microorganisms
4) Use the same number of strains for each test
5) Include linezolid and rifampin
6) Discuss the results obtained by comparing the data obtained with the two methods.

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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)

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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 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.