Author's response to reviews

Title: Does vancomycin prescribing intervention affect vancomycin-resistant enterococcus infection and colonization in hospitals? A systematic review

Authors:

Monique A. de Bruin (monique.debruin@stanford.edu)
Lee W. Riley (lwriley@berkeley.edu)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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The BioMed Central Editorial Team
Tel: +44 (0)20 7631 9921
Facsimile: +44 (0)20 7631 9923
e-mail: editorial@biomedcentral.com
Web: http://www.biomedcentral.com/

RE: MS 4270622221087913, “Does vancomycin prescribing intervention affect vancomycin-resistant enterococcus infection and colonization in hospitals? A systematic review”

Dear Editors:

Please find enclosed point-by-point responses to the additional suggestions of Dr. Perencevich. We have also uploaded the revised manuscript, and have ensured that it conforms to the journal’s style and formatting standards.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1) The authors should review and reference this paper (Harbarth S, Cosgrove S and Carmeli Y, Effects of Antibiotics on Nosocomial Epidemiology of VRE, Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, June 2002 p1619-28) in the background section with at least one sentence since it was a good review that preceded theirs and referenced at least 6 of the articles they included in their systematic review.

We agree that the review by Harbarth et al. on antibiotics and nosocomial VRE should be included in our background section. We have now added, “In addition to being a risk factor for VRE acquisition, vancomycin exposure may also increase VRE detection in patients already colonized, by eliminating other colonizing bacteria and allowing VRE to flourish [22]” (page 5, ¶ 1, final sentence of the revised manuscript). We have also
added, “A review by Harbarth et al. on antibiotic exposure and VRE concluded that intravenous vancomycin use may have a limited role in contributing to new VRE acquisition, while cephalosporins and anti-anaerobic agents may have a greater effect” (page 5, ¶ 2, sentence 2 of the revised manuscript).

2) In this paper by Harbarth, I noticed one article that might have been included in this review (Belliveau PP et al. Am. J Health Syst Pharm 1996 53:1570—75). The authors should include this article in their table and analysis if it met their inclusion criteria. It is possible that they already considered this article and excluded it, which is OK. We appreciate the suggestion for considering the article by Belliveau PP et al. among our included studies. In our initial literature search, we reviewed this article and found that it did not meet our inclusion criteria. This article did not report the prevalence or incidence of VRE before and after the vancomycin reduction intervention.

Minor Essential Revision
On page 11 in the results section under stratified analysis, the authors have added a sentence that states: “Although it was not statistically significant, studies that used vancomycin…” I suggest that they change the word “used” to “controlled.” We agree and have changed the word “used” to “controlled.”

Thank you for your continued consideration of our manuscript. We hope that with these changes, the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in your journal. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (415)846-5389, or via email at monique.debruin@stanford.edu

Sincerely,
Monique de Bruin, M.D.
Resident in Internal Medicine
Stanford University School of Medicine