Reviewer's report

Title: Accuracy of Antibiotic Treatment in Intravenous Drug Users, a Retrospective Analysis

Version: 2 Date: 30 October 2007

Reviewer: Itzhak Brook

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an extensive study that reveals important issues regarding treatment of IVU. However, there are important issues that need to be clarified to insure its scientific merits.

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

The last paragraph of the introduction should deal with the purpose and logic of the study.

Pg 5-6, study design: How many researchers evaluated each case record? Were there any methods that insured objectivity of the review, such as blinded review and several reviewers of each record? What were the definition of each parameter and the quantization of each? Was there any standardization of each parameter in patient’s behavior? What was the definition of adequate antimicrobial therapy? The current one is too sketchy. Was antimicrobial susceptibility considered? How many of S. aureus were MRSA?

What methods were used to culture organisms? Where anaerobes looked for appropriately?

How did HIV and other co morbidities affect the outcome?

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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)

Table 3- what organisms were recovered in mixed infection? We are not told what type of infection was caused by each organism.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have
responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

declare that I have no competing interests