Reviewer's report

Title: Control of MRSA infection and colonisation in an intensive care unit by GeneOhm MRSA assay and culture methods

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Reviewer: Anna S Levin

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The evaluation of rapid methods to detect asymptomatic carriers of resistant pathogens is important and this study involves the evaluation of a commercially available PCR-based method to detect MRSA carriers.

There are a few points that need addressing.

1- The main problem is that cultures, the comparator method that was considered the gold standard, may have sensitivity problems. The authors only used Mannitol-salt agar and did not use an enrichment medium, that would increase sensitivity. Also, only nasal swabs were cultured, and that may have reduced sensitivity, as the skin and the oropharynx may be important culture sites.

2- Less important points are:

- The introduction could be greatly shortened to 1 or 1.5 pages, containing only the information directly relevant to understanding the paper.

- In the 4th line of introduction the authors state that MRSA is generally more virulent than MSSA. I feel this is not accurate as most nosocomial MRSA do not carry important virulence factors.

- In Methods, the authors could describe the unit in which the study took place, such as number of beds, type of patients, number of patients admitted, etc.

- On page 7 (the pages were not numbered so I chose to call the page with the "Background" page 1), on lines 3 and 4, the authors repeat methods, which is unnecessary.

- The authors should shorten the conclusions.

- Table 2 could be removed and the comparison of the results obtained in this study with those of previous studies would be better included in the discussion.

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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.