Reviewer's report

Title: Cloxacillin versus Vancomycin for Presumed Late-Onset Sepsis in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Impact upon Outcome of Coagulase Negative Staphylococcal Bacteremia: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Version: 5  Date: 15 September 2005

Reviewer: Michael Höfler

Reviewer's report:

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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)

Answer to my point 4: Multiple testing can not be used as justification not to adjust for lethargy. If one assesses many potential confounders the test for a specific potential confounder is penalized with many other tests - which might be totally unrelated to the question whether the specific potential confounder is truly a confounder that needs to be considered. Therefore, researchers that assess many variables may arrive at a different conclusion about a specific confounder than researchers that assess a small number of variables. The degree of bias introduced by a confounder, however, would be the same in both cases.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Answer to my point 3: Don't make the common mistake to take the lack of evidence for an interaction as evidence for the lack of that interaction.

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: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests.