Reviewer's report

Title: Resource use by patients hospitalized with community-acquired pneumonia in Europe: analysis of the REACH study

Version: 2 Date: 12 September 2013

Reviewer: Feng Xu

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions:

Community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) is kind of common disease which cannot be ignored because of its high rate of hospitalization and considerable mortality. The current work is a multinational, multi-center, observational, retrospective cohort study (REACH) and the study variables were collected via an electronic Case Report Form, aiming at displaying the economic loss and resource waste caused by hospitalized CAP patients, especially those with inappropriate initial antibiotic treatment.

This study has certain clinical significance in that it may sound the alarm for current management of CAP, in particular the initial antibiotic treatment modifications. As the author mentioned that the causality of the association between initial antibiotic treatment modification and resource use cannot be determined from the available data, I suggest the correlation study be done.

The title and abstract are clear and well conveyed the authors' thoughts and findings. The methods are fairly appropriate and well described, and the limitations are also clearly stated. The data were collected from multiple countries and centers, and reliable in some extent to support the conclusions. In addition, the writing, including the framework and English, is quite acceptable.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.