Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology, associated factors and outcomes of ICU-acquired infections caused by Gram-negative bacteria in critically ill patients: an observational, retrospective study

Version: 3 Date: 6 April 2015
Reviewer: Albert Nguyen

Reviewer's report:

Minor issues not for publication

Abstract
1. Add “The” before “aim”
2. Please capitalize “The” after “Method:”
3. Please capitalize “On” after “Results:”
4. In the methods section, change “Centre” to “Centers”
5. Change “National Hospital Safety Network” to “National Healthcare Safety Network”

Article

Line 10- change “diabetes” to “diabetes mellitus”
Line 34- please change Centre for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Hospital Safety Network to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Healthcare Safety Network”
Line 65 - change “patients who presented an ICU-acquired” to “Patients who presented with an ICU-acquired”

Minor essential Revisions
Line 106- “The confrontation of ICU-length of stay” needs clarification. Did you mean to write “comparison?”
Line 122- change IC to ICU
Line 142- syntax error. delete “,” in “65,2% and change to “.”
Line 196- double space the start of the sentence.
Table 3- remove “,” in 6,83±1,53 and replace with “.” 6.83±1.53

Major compulsory revisions
Line 113- The statement “The results of this study confirm that the rate of new ICU-acquired Gram-negative infections…” is strongly worded. The author’s study is retrospective and based on a single center study with a small population size. Instead the authors can write “The results of this study support the notion that the rate of new ICU-acquired…”
Line 116- It appears that more surgical patients developed a gram negative infection compared to medical patients. This is reported by the authors in line 98 that states that 40% of Gram-negative infected patients were admitted for non-surgical treatment as well as in table 1. Reviewing the table alone, one would assume that 60% of the Gram-negative group were surgical patients. Would surgical ICU admission also be an independent risk factor for Gram-negative infection? Please clarify

Line 100- What was the average time antifungals were started and duration before acquiring Gram negative infection. What was the average time and duration the control group was on antifungals. Was there a difference between the two groups? Focusing on this aspect would improve the relevance of this paper.

Discretionary revision for reference section

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.