Reviewer’s report

Title: Daptomycin versus linezolid for treatment of vancomycin-resistant enterococcal bacteremia: systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 1 Date: 15 October 2014

Reviewer: Marin Schweizer

Reviewer’s report:

This systematic literature review and meta-analysis by Chuang et al., compared the effectiveness of linezolid versus daptomycin at treating vancomycin-resistant enterococci using the outcomes of mortality and microbiologic cure. When they pooled the results of 13 underpowered studies, they found a significant benefit of linezolid over daptomycin in regards to mortality. The systematic literature review and meta-analysis were done according to the PRISMA guidelines and the subset analyses showed interesting distinctions between the different study groups. Overall this is a well done meta-analysis. Only a few changes should be made.

MAJOR CHANGES:

1. Both the background and discussion sections state that confounder were not adjusted for in the meta-analysis by Whang et al., Do the authors mean that Wang did not use adjusted odds ratios when pooling the results? There is a difference. Please clarify.

2. The manuscript needs a better description of why some studies were excluded. For example, how was one study classified as “unacceptable”? Was a cut-point using the SIGN50 criteria chosen a priori? Also, why were “epidemiologic” studies excluded?

3. The results section needs to be more informative. First, a statement should be made on the quality of the overall studies and measured by SIGN50. Second, there should be a statement on what the individual studies adjusted for (the authors could move lines 16-18 on page 17 of the discussion to the results section to accomplish this).

MINOR CHANGES:

1. The manuscript should be proofread, especially on page 11.

2. Lines 8-9 of the abstract conclusion is too strong of a statement for the type of studies pooled (superior is a strong word). Please modify it to match the conclusions of the manuscript.

3. The abstract and the background states that linezolid is approved for treatment of VRE but doesn’t state if daptomycin is approved for VRE. Please clarify this.

4. It is confusing that the x-axis changes from figures 5A/5B to figure 5C. Please either make 5C its own figure (figure 6) or modify the x-axis of figure 5C.
5. I don’t understand page 14 lines 16-18. Your analysis with an adjusted OR from Furuya did show a significant difference. Why do these lines say there was not a significant difference on reanalysis? Please clarify.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests