Reviewer's report

Title: Stenotrophomonas maltophilia bloodstream infection in patients with hematologic malignancies: a retrospective study and in vitro activities of antimicrobial combinations

Version: 2
Date: 22 December 2014
Reviewer: Geetika Sood

Reviewer's report:

Overall, interesting case series with interesting in vitro testing results. The conclusions are a bit overstated for the data presented, but a good paper

Major Revisions
181-182 - how was attributable mortality defined?
204-211 more detail on why only 50% of isolates were tested for synergy and the results in table 4 should be described a little more in this section
249-250 the paper does not address biofilm issues, only in vitro susceptibility testing
256 further studies will also be needed to determine if this in vitro synergy has any important clinical impact
267-269 - It is a big jump to say that the primary treatment of S maltophilia should be TMP sulfa based on such limited testing and based simply on in vitro testing. There is no evidence presented here to support that conclusion.

Minor Essential Revisions
74-75 - is there references to demonstrate this or is it speculation?

Discretionary Revisions
None

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