Reviewer’s report

Title: Why is asymptomatic bacteriuria overtreated? : A tertiary care institutional survey for resident physicians

Version: 1 Date: 4 December 2014

Reviewer: David Chien Lye

Reviewer’s report:

The authors undertook a retrospective audit of positive urine cultures over 12 months. Definitions of asymptomatic bacteriuria and urinary tract infection were in accordance with NHSN and appropriateness of antibiotic management in accordance with IDSA. This was followed by a quantitative survey of knowledge, perception and practice.

While not novel, this study adds to recent literature in the area which highlights the urgent need to target inappropriate treatment of positive urine cultures as a component of antimicrobial stewardship programme.

Appropriate literature review was cited in discussion.

No major compulsory revisions.

Minor revisions:
(1) Please justify exclusion of repeat urine cultures within 7 days and those within 48 hours of admission. This is of concern as 683 cases of 1167 were excluded.
(2) Acknowledge that retrospective review of medical records will introduce significant bias in assessing asymptomatic bacteriuria as documentation is rarely complete in routine clinical care outside of prospective protocol guided data collection
(3) Define resident physicians. It may mean different things to different people. The authors are referring to junior doctors within 4 years of graduation from medical schools.
(4) Explain why senior doctors were not surveyed as they are the ones that often make decisions and teach junior doctors.
(5) 1167 unique episodes of positive urine cultures over a year in a 900-bed tertiary hospital appeared to be an underestimation. How did the authors obtain their data?
(6) Clarify if polymicrobial positive urine cultures were included, and if patients with urinary catheterisation were included.
(7) The statement from lines 307-309 appeared to be referring to a separate study but no reference was cited. Please do so.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.