Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical and Microbiological Characteristics of Purulent and Non-purulent Cellulitis in Taiwanese Adults in the Era of CA-MRSA

Version: 3 Date: 22 April 2015

Reviewer: Yhu-Chering Huang

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Comment: YES.
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Comment: Generally YES.
3. Are the data sound?
   Comment: Yes.
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Comments: Yes.
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Comments: Generally acceptable.
   Line 280, references should be provided.
   Line 293-295, not misdiagnosed, but not fit your inclusion criteria (arbitrary definition)
   Line 302, “In our investigation”, you mean “in this study” or your other investigations.
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   Comments: Partly.
   By your definition, rare pus specimens could be obtained from most cellulitis cases, so the etiologic investigation would be inadequate. Otherwise, there is no serologic study for Staphylococcus aureus and this etiologic agent might be underestimated for cellulitis. In addition, no molecular characterization was done for CA-MRSA, also a limitation.
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Comments: Generally acceptable. Suggest add “hospitalized adult patients” and
provide full spelling for CA-MRSA. The conclusions in the abstract are not appropriate and need revision.

9. Is the writing acceptable?

Comments: Yes, generally.

The term “community-acquired” or “community-associated” should be clearly stated in “background” part.

Table 2. The percentage should be “0” but not “0.8” for death within 30 days in the purulent group. The unit (days?) should be provided for “length of stay and duration of antimicrobial therapy”. Also for these 2 items, numbers in ( ) are standard deviation or what?

Full spellings for the abbreviations in the Tables should be provided as footnotes, such as ASOT, GNB, CA-MRSA etc.

**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’