Reviewer's report

Title: Successful colistin-vancomycin combination treatment against colistin-sensitive multidrug resistant Acinetobacter baumannii severe infections.

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Reviewer: Spyros Pournaras

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Major Compulsoy revisions

The authors explored the potential synergistic activity of colistin plus vancomycin against severe pediatric infections.

The synergy between colistin is established and this approach is surely promising for clinical therapies. However, the current study has severe flaws and the clinical cases are insufficient to establish the efficacy of the combination. The most significant concerns follow:

i) The carbapenemase genes, particularly oxacillinases, cannot be detected by phenotypic assays, as stated in the manuscript. Also, metallo-beta-lactamases are very rare in Acinetobacters. The carbapenemase genes should have been detected by PCR before presence of carbapenem-hydrolyzing enzymes is claimed.

ii) The antibiotic resistance profile of all strains (including the first one) is not presented. Even if the 3 strains were not available for experimental study, the routine Vitek2 antibiogram should be available.

iii) All clinical cases were treated by colistin+vancomycin+meropenem. It cannot be predicted if the combination of colistin+vancomycin was the effective scheme; the contribution of meropenem cannot be ignored. This holds very true as meropenem MICs are not available for 3/4 strains.

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'