Reviewer’s report

Title: Erysipelas, a large retrospective study of aetiology and clinical presentation

Version: 1 Date: 20 July 2015

Reviewer: Richard Brindle

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Essential Revisions:

Text line 156:
‘For definite treatment, ‘ Not sure what this means - ‘definitive – that is culture directed treatment or later treatment when the diagnosis was clearer?'

Discretionary Revisions

Erysipelas v Cellulitis

The authors have chosen to separate erysipelas from cellulitis and this clarity of distinction is not obvious to all. Hirschmann points out that erysipelas has been used in three confusing and different ways. The reader is therefore left with the uncertainty that another set of patients with the diagnosis of cellulitis also exists within the University Hospital Lund whose clinical features and microbiology are different from those patients presented. If this is not the case then the title should read ‘Erysipelas and Cellulitis, a large ….' If it is the case then we would also be interested in the cases of cellulitis and their clinical and microbiology features and how they differ from erysipelas.

Text line 31: suggested change
‘Despite erysipelas being common, and …’

Text line 69: suggested change
‘The Ethics Committee …’

Wound cultures:

Data on antibiotics prior to cultures would be helpful in the case of negative and gram-negative cultures.

Isoxazolylpenicillins: suggested change

Probably better to state which was used e.g. cloxacillin, flucloxacillin, rather than the group name.

Text lines 180-182: suggested change
‘, though our hospital is the only one serving the population (or area).’

Text line 204: comment

Komatsu et all published on the differences between GAS and GGS cellulitis and
found a difference in a history of previous episodes. You may find this paper helpful to refer to.

Refs:
Komatsu Y et al Dermatology February 2014

**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