Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical characteristics and risk factors for enterococcal infections in Nagasaki, Japan: a retrospective case-control study

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Reviewer: Theodoros Kelesidis

Reviewer's report:

The clinical significance of this study is unclear. This research question has been previously addressed in other studies and there is no attempt from the authors to compare their study with others including comparison of study design, methods and statistical considerations such as sample size.

The definition of “infection” is vague. Why did the authors pick up a white blood cell count >9100/mm3 and C-reactive protein > 0.17 mg/dL as cut-off? There is no justification. What about other comorbidities that may affect these parameters (e.g. use of steroids)? The term “organ specific symptoms” is vague. Were the charts reviewed by clinicians? What about selection and misclassification biases? The matched controlled design is poorly described and there are no power sample size calculations. The collinearity between predictors is not considered. Did the authors look for interactions? For example there is collinearity between diabetes, steroids, kidney disease etc.

The significance of Table 2 is unclear. The antimicrobial susceptibilities for Enterococcus sp have been described in numerous studies.

Overall poor design, the study lacks novelty, incomplete review of the literature.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests