Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 21 May 2015

Reviewer: Giovanni Battista Orsi

Reviewer's report:

MAJOR COMMENTS
The article focuses on an argument which is relevant for the BMC Infectious Diseases journal and also specifically for nosocomial infections. The English language and writing level is sufficient.

The authors carried out a case-control study to describe clinical characteristics and risk factors for enterococcal infections in a teaching hospital in Japan.

The main finding was that abdominal surgery, structural abnormalities of the urinary tract and use of in situ devices are the most significant risk factors for enterococcal infection.

The study adds useful regional epidemiological information (Japan), and the findings are important to those with related research interests.

Background
1) Page 6, line 80: include one more specific reference (Orsi GB, Ciorba V. Vancomycin-resistant enterococci healthcare infections. Ann Ig 2013; 25 (6): 485-492);

Results
2) Page 10, lines 134-138: the phrase is not very clear, ... “there were 583 Enterococcus spp case isolates...These corresponded to 181 infected patients ...: moreover, 390 cases were colonized”. 181 infected patients + 390 colonized should be 571, please explain;

Discussion
3) Overall the Discussion looks a bit too long for the reader and needs to be shortened.
4) References cited in the Discussion do not appear in order. After reference number (7) in page 8 in the discussion page 13 line 204 appears reference (20), please check. Also reference (18) appears after reference (20).

References
5) There are seven references (11, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 36) I could not find in the manuscript text. If they have been eliminated during corrections please cancel them. Also renumber appropriately all references as described in the “Instruction
Minor essential revisions

1) Page 6, lines 86-87: “This study aimed to describe epidemiology, clinical characteristics and risk factors for enterococcal infections” please correct;

2) Page 7, line 94: “…an 862-bed tertiary care and teaching hospital…” please correct;

3) Page 10, lines 145-148: data already reported in the Table 1 should not be repeated in the text. You might briefly underline something you consider important. Please cancel all repeated data;

4) Page 13, line 210: “….from 2010 to 2011 …” or “…during 2010-2011….“ please correct;

5) Page 13, line 211: “….indicating this complication incidence is high at 42% …” please correct;

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 have no competing interests