Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 3 June 2015

**Reviewer:** Patricia J. Simner

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Kajihara et al performed a retrospective case-case control study to determine the clinical characteristics and risk factors associated with enterococcal infections in Nagasaki, Japan.

**Major:**

1. Tables 1 & 2: Please provide chi square analysis between E. faecalis and E. faecium variables to determine if the differences are statistically significant or not and add P values to the text.
2. Line 127: Please explain how colonization vs infection were determined.
3. Was there a link between colonization and the risk of acquiring infection?
4. Please comment on the lack of VRE isolated from this study. What is the VRE prevalence rate at the institution?

**Minor:**

1. Line 42: Should be: …patients with Enterococcus spp infection…
2. Line 87: Remove “as” from the sentence.
3. Line 122 under Statistical Analysis: There should be at least a count of 10 in any category to determine statistical significance and not the use of 5 as described.
4. Line 137: Please rephrase the sentence. …; moreover, 390 patients were colonized with Enterococci.
5. Line 139: Insert “and” between abscess discharge and blood.
6. Lines 146-148: Rearrange comorbidities from the most common to the least common in the sentence.
7. Please combine tables 3-5.
8. Line 208-212: The sentence needs to be reworded especially the ending.
9. VanA and VanB need to be corrected in the manuscript. There is no space beween Van and the determinant.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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.