Reviewer's report

Title: Available, Bed-sided, Comprehensive (ABC) Score to A Diagnosis of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Infection: A Derivation and Validation Study

Version: 2 Date: 06 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Shey-Ying Chen

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript now is more appropriate for publication in current status. I have only one comment and on phrasing suggestion.

First, since subgroup analysis was not performed for sterile samples (n = 6) in the validation phase, the sentence of "In case of the sterile samples, even though the samples were few in number (n = 6), results of clinical diagnosis and the ABC score were perfectly consistent" (Line 243-244) is overstatement and should be deleted. So I would like to suggest revising the sentence as "The subgroup analysis for non-sterile (Group 0-2) samples in validation phase demonstrated a consistently high utility of the scoring system (AUC, 0.978; 95% CI, 0.955-1.0; sensitivity, 92.9%; specificity, 93.3%). For the sterile samples (Group 3) in the validation phase, subgroup analysis was not performed due to the small case number (n = 6)".

Second, in Background section, Line 71-74, initial description" "A multi-centered retrospective cohort study led to the development of a simple risk score to identify patients with community-acquired MRSA pneumonia, who might benefit from MRSA therapy [13]. This scoring method could be useful, but is limited to pulmonary infections" is not clear to emphasize the unique goal of this study. I would like to suggest revising this sentence as "Though previous studies proposed various scoring models to stratify the risk of contracting MRSA among patients with pulmonary or bloodstream infections, these scoring models are limited in predicting the presence of MRSA infection rather than differentiating active MRSA infection from colonization status [13, new reference].".

New reference:

Chen SY, Chiang WC, Ma MH, Hsueh PR, Chang SC, Fang CC, Chen SC, Chen WJ, Chie WC, Lai MS. Predicting methicillin resistance among community-onset Staphylococcus aureus

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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