Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii from 2005 to 2016 in Switzerland

Version: 0 Date: 03 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Spyros Pournaras

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript reports on invasive carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter spp. isolated from 2005 to 2016 in Switzerland and analyses temporal and regional trends, pointing out that carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter spp. are much less frequent compared with other European regions and cause limited cases of invasive infections. Although such epidemiological reports are of interest, to my opinion there are some limitations in this manuscript that need to be addressed.

- The actual number of ACB isolates should be 299 and not 244, as can be extracted from the Table 1. So, carbapenem resistance rates for A. baumannii complex isolates (ACB) should be 18.4%, not 22.5%.
- The analysis should include only the 299 A. baumannii complex isolates, which are the most relevant species clinically and not the 333 non-baumanii Acinetobacter spp, which are rarely carbapenem-resistant and only occasionally cause hospital infections. This approach is followed by the ECDC (ref. 6). The other species might be included as hospital pathogens in Switzerland, but not in terms of their carbapenem resistance.
- In regions with low prevalence of ACB infections, possible outbreak occurrence should be taken into consideration and may affect the overall resistance rates, as typically occurred with the increase in 2010 in the North East region due to outbreak in the same intensive care burn unit.
- Some data about the overall antibiotic resistance phenotype of the 299 ACB isolates and particularly of the 55 carbapenem-resistant ones should be presented so that the reader is
aware of available treatment alternatives. Was there any colistin resistance (by broth microdilution) issue?
- The carbapemase-encoding genes of the 55 carbapenem-resistant ACB and also their clonal composition would be of interest. Are there any of these isolates available for testing?

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
Not relevant to this manuscript

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