**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** An epidemiological and molecular study regarding the spread of vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus faecium in a teaching hospital in Bogotá, Colombia 2016

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 10 May 2018

**Reviewer:** Efi Petinaki

**Reviewer’s report:**

In this manuscript the authors describe the investigation of a nosocomial outbreak caused by VRE in a teaching hospital. The methods were well performed and the data clearly presented. I have some points that need clarification:

- **title:** correct to 'in a teaching hospital'.
- **page 3, line 12:** correct 'use of combined'.
- **page 4, line 18:** correct to 'beta-lactamase-encoding'.
- **page 6, line 48:** delete 'has'.
- **page 8, lines 4-12:** did the authors searched for the presence of vanB gene.
- **figure 1:** In figure 1, the authors must show also the post-outbreak period. Since during the post-outbreak period were isolated 17 VRefm, the outbreak doesn't seem to have ended.
- **page 12, lines 25-30:** What was the resistance mechanism for the three isolates that were negative for vanA gene?
- **page 13, lines 33-37:** The index case must be the patient that was identified first.
- **page 13, lines 12-58:** Since there is lack of samples from the first three patients, and there is disagreement between the epidemiological data and the experimental findings, the transmission analysis doesn't seem accurate. Thus, it would better transmission analysis to be deleted from the revised manuscript.
- **page 14, lines 41-44:** No data were rep-PCR analysis. The authors must delete this sentence or they must present the findings of the rep-PCR analysis.

In Figure 3, it would be helpful, the authors to include the data for March and April.

**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?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**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

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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