Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical parameters and outcomes of necrotizing soft tissue infections secondary to gastrointestinal fistulas

Version: 1 Date: 31 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Andrew Stephen

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for allowing me to review this interesting paper on NSTIs arising from GI fistulas. It is quite informative and I feel like I learned some things from this paper that could be useful for clinical practice. The methods are well described and straightforward and the authors carry out the project as per the methods. There will be more and more NSTIs especially with the rising rates of obesity and understanding the various ways these infections can present is important. This paper can be useful to a wide range of surgeons.

The results seem reasonable and not surprising. Patients of older age, higher acuity presentations were more likely to die. I noticed that 27 of 39 patients had high output GI fistulas and am curious about what types of nutrition these patients received. Was TPN used for most of these patients? Was a high output fistula predictive of mortality? I think this is important to answer as high output fistulas are quite a bit more likely to have complications and to be difficult to manage.

I look forward to seeing this work in its published form.

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

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics

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