Reviewer’s report

Title: Laboratory Confirmed Puerperal Sepsis in a National Referral Hospital in Tanzania: Etiological Agents and Their Susceptibility to Commonly Prescribed Antibiotics

Version: 1 Date: 17 May 2019

Reviewer: Jennifer Kaiser

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have made several changes in regards to the reviews and the paper is overall stronger for it. There is a major issue that should be addressed prior to publication.

1. The authors have made it clearer that just over half of women were on antibiotics prior to arrival to the tertiary hospital, and therefore prior to collection of cultures. This is a major methodological issue and has significant implications for interpretation, application, and generalizability of the results. I have included some aspects that could use further clarification.
   a. In the methods section, it states "Empiric treatments were initiated soon after specimen collection." This needs clarification since half of specimen collection occurred after initiation of therapy.
   b. A sub-analysis of the culture results and antimicrobial resistance patterns of the two groups - those with cultures drawn prior to therapy initiation and those after - may yield differences in the resistance patterns and pathogen type. If this is not possible, more discussion is needed about the limitations on the primary outcomes of 55.3% of women having been on antibiotics for 1-6 days prior to culture collection.
   c. It is possible that women being transferred have more resistant pathogens and therefore generalizability is limited. A comment is needed on this in the conclusion.
   d. The findings from this study are limited to pathogens found at a tertiary care facility and the paper needs to present a more guarded conclusion in terms of broad treatment guideline revision.

2. There are multiple grammatical issues throughout.

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.
Yes

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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