Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants and outcomes of Access-Related Blood-Stream Infections among Irish Haemodialysis Patients; A Cohort Study

Version: 0 Date: 22 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Sandawana Majoni

Reviewer’s report:

Comments for authors:

This study explored factors associated with AR-BSI in a cohort of haemodialysis patients at a tertiary nephrology centre in Ireland. It is very well conducted and presented for a retrospective study. It will clearly add valuable information to the current evidence around issues of vascular access for haemodialysis patients.

Please address the following:

1. Are the high rates of coagulase negative staphylococci a reflection on the unit's practice? 60% is very high. Although they have explained that the organism can be spread by poor hand hygiene and inadequate sterilisation, the authors did not explain whether this is a practice issue in their unit and what their recommendations would be.

2. Why do they think diabetes was not a significant factor in their study?

3. Figures 2 and 3 will need reformatting as they are difficult to read. They contain very important results.

4. On tables 1 and 2, the meaning of their p values is not clear. Can they indicate their statistical significance levels in the methods section? They have indicated in the tables values of *P<0.05 and **P<0.01. It is not clear what this means. It may be clearer if they create another column where they indicate the exact p-values. A p-value of less than 0.01 will be less than 0.05 which causes confusion in the way they have presented this.

Overall, despite the above comments, this study adds significantly to the current evidence and provides additional valuable information informing safe clinical practice in vascular access management for haemodialysis patients.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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