Reviewer's report

Title: Bacterial isolates and their anti-microbial susceptibility pattern among patients with external ocular infections at Borumeda hospital, Northeast, Ethiopia

Version: 2
Date: 16 February 2015
Reviewer: Lalitha N prajna

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor, 14.2.2015.

Thank you for giving me this chance to review this paper title "Bacterial isolates and their antimicrobial susceptibility patterns among patients with external ocular infections at Borumeda hospital, Northeast, Ethiopia.

This paper attempts to describe the bacterial profile and their antibiotic susceptibilities in external ocular infections. Although this is a very good attempt by the authors to profile their data, I find some serious draw backs in this paper.

1. The introduction and discussion is too long and mentions issues not related directly to the paper. The introduction mentions corneal ulcer and trachoma but there is no data on these diseases in this study. The diseases studied here mainly conjunctivitis and blepharitis will not lead to blindness.

2. This study does not discuss major external infection like microbial keratitis plus scleritis, canaliculitis and other external adnexal infections. So the title may not actually reflect what is in the paper.

3. A major cause of conjunctivitis is viral and this study does not mention that and it presumes that all conjunctivitis are bacterial.

4. The criteria for a positive culture are not mentioned. This is very important because in this study states that "coagulase negative Staphylococcus" is the most common organism especially in conjunctivitis and blepharitis which might have been normal flora. I find this is a very important issue in many studies which claim that coagulase negative Staphylococcus is the number one pathogens. The laboratory reporting criteria must be looked onto very carefully.

5. Flouroquinolones are a very common group of antibiotics used world over in ocular infections and this major group was not tested. So it would be difficult to suggest the appropriate antibiotics for external infections.

6. The conclusions suggest that vancomycin can be used in these external ocular infections which might be a bit extreme. Vancomycin must be considered only for very morbid and multidrug resistant organisms.

There are some serious flaws in the writing in terms of the English and spelling. The references are also not quoted correctly (No 2 and 25 are same.)

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a
scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests'