Reviewer’s report

Title: 7 versus 14 days of Antibiotic Treatment for Critically Ill Patients with Bloodstream Infection: A Pilot Randomized Clinical Trial

Version: 0 Date: 28 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Ahmed Abouarab

Reviewer's report:

This is a pilot RCT to assess the feasibility of conducting a large multicenter trial design based on antibiotic treatment duration in critically ill ICU patients with bloodstream infections. Durations of 7 versus 14 days of antibiotic treatment were compared among bacteremia patients from different intensive care units.

A very interesting, well written and presented pilot trial with a potential substantial impact on health care and practice.

Few points could be addressed for improvement of the manuscript.

Abstract

"conduct an RCT" should read "conduct a RCT"

Background

"Given the absence of evidence………………, such as 7 days used by many practitioners"

This sentence is too long and could be rewritten to clarify the meaning.

More information could be added here to explain the significant impact this finding could have on healthcare. For example, regarding the cost of care, side effects of extended antibiotic treatment, etc. Supporting such information with numbers and references would be helpful as well. Brief statement regarding why a pilot study is needed prior to conducting the larger multicenter trial.
Methods

Intervention: 7 versus 14 days of Adequate Antimicrobial Treatment

Details about the intervention are given here, but no information about the criteria used to define effective treatment, for e.g. how many cultures were used to confirm eradication of the bloodstream infection or any other parameters used. More details about assessment of efficacy of treatment could be added here.

Some detail regarding the follow-up is not clear such as the method of contact and assessment. This could be added under a separate section for follow-up details.

RESULTS

"patients who me the exclusion criteria" should read "who met"

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