Reviewer’s report

Title: Safety and effectiveness of a low-dose amikacin in nontuberculous mycobacterial pulmonary disease

Version: 0 Date: 08 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Douglas Ball

Reviewer's report:

A generally well-written paper that just needs clarity on some issues.

Title: refer to setting

Abstract: use the full form of NTM PD at least once. Give dates in methods.

L41 "mycobacterial" needs correcting to 'mycobacteria'. Define NTM in the next sentence as part of NTM PD.

L67 - would prefer distinct inclusion/exclusion criteria. When a median duration of treatment is stated later it is not clear if this includes any patients who received amikacin for less than 3 months. Were patients receiving amikacin for their 2nd or third time included (i.e. no data on their first exposure) or only those receiving it for the first time (the latter better)? How long was follow-up? Refer STROBE reporting guidelines.

L75 - is it likely that dosing was undertaken the same way over 14 years without substantial difference? How have the guidelines changed over this period? These need to be addressed with more detail than currently in the Limitations. Could it affect interpretation of the results?

L113 - so was data for those with less than 3 months' treatment included in other analyses? Would it not be clearer to limit only to those with 3 months plus duration? At least need to be clearer.

L139 - were these all first courses, does duration and total dose, etc. include repeated/subsequent treatments?

L292 - 'medical therapy alone' may be misunderstood. Be clearer.

Table 1. Consider removing the breakdown of autoimmune disease and/or other actions to reduce table length. If those >3 months is a separate group, need to present their data.

Table 2. Make all % to 1 decimal place.

Table 3. Repeated exposure to amikacin could also have been tested in the model.
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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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