Reviewer's report

Title: Are antibiotics substandard in Lebanon? Quantification of active pharmaceutical ingredients between brand and generics of selected antibiotics

Version: 0 Date: 13 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Simone Brogi

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript, although interesting in the idea, presents some drawbacks:

-First of all the manuscript should be completely revised in term of language. Some parts are difficult to read. I suggest to check for verbs, plurals and some sentences are not well built.

-authors should report, in Material and methods, for chemical compounds in addition to the table, the vendors or in which place compounds were purchased. Moreover, there is a quite strange things. In table 1 the authors claims that compounds were purchased from Sigma, etc. but the authors wrote that for example for ciprofloxacin, one brand and 4 generics of ciprofloxacin tablets but no name of brand and generic are reported, but only suppliers sigma etc. Maybe the hospitals purchase drugs from sigma? it is quite strange. In other words I expected that the authors took the drugs from an hospital/pharmacy (one branded drugs and some generics). Please explain

-Moreover, the authors highlighted several limitations of this study that make this report a very preliminary study. maybe the authors can perform some of the tests that are described in the limitation (for example potency against bacterial strains). This could improve the manuscript adding relevant information.

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.

No

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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