

Review of: "SEC is an anti-angiogenic virulence factor that promotes Staphylococcus aureus Infective Endocarditis Independent of Superantigen Activity"

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This is an interesting manuscript that addresses the role of staphylococcal enterotoxin C (SEC) in infective endocarditis. As expected from this strong research group, there are a lot of data to support their findings. They show that even though SEC is a superantigen, it is not the superantigen activity that plays the major role in infective endocarditis. They have used mutants of SEC, that are permitted by CDC, to show that the non-superantigenic mutants retain role in endocarditis. The initiate studies also to examine kidney and liver damage associated with the infection process. These studies are complete and backed up multiple times by alternative experiments. They set the stage to find out exactly what superantigens do to contribute significantly to infective endocarditis. I have no suggested changes. The manuscript reads well, the data appear solid with justified conclusions, and appropriate statistical analyses have been done.