

Review of: "Meropenem Usage Assessment amid the Antibiotic Resistance Crisis: A Comprehensive Analysis in a Tertiary Care Hospital in Pakistan"

Olivia Chan¹

¹ Columbia University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review

The title of the manuscript is "Meropenem Usage Assessment amid the Antibiotic Resistance Crisis: A Comprehensive Analysis in a Tertiary Care Hospital in Pakistan". It is a cross-sectional study of antibiotic prescription, guideline knowledge, and demographic characteristics.

Comment

Title and content

The content matches the goal and title of the manuscript, which is to investigate the etiology of meropenem prescription.

Abstract

The writing is clear and covers all necessary points.

Introduction

"...this study...the conceptual framework surrounding meropenem prescription..". If the authors can please state that this is a cross-sectional study of antibiotic use and stewardship factors. This study design and its findings are insufficient to formulate a conceptual framework, and there is no need for a conceptual framework established between the findings and the goal of the study. The writing distracts from the intention of the manuscript.

Materials and Methods

The study design and population, inclusion, and exclusion criteria that are stated are fair. The study sample size needs to be elaborated. Could the authors please state the power, statistical test used, and statistical significance level derived from the WHO sample size calculation? Please cite the website or link.

Most of the antibiotic use or drug use studies that involve diagnosis or disease types, the ICD-10 codes are the standard of comparison and categorization. Use of a universally acceptable coding system will be helpful.

Results or Findings

General edits:

-Please do not use capital letters such as “Enteric fever” and “Urinary tract infection” in the paragraphs. It is acceptable to use capital letters for the first word in the Figure but not needed in the paragraphs. There is inconsistent upper case and lower case such as “Solid organ Abscess”, please correct this.

-It is uncommon to use emotive words in a cross-sectional study. Wordings such as “remarkably”, “intriguingly”, “impressively”, “intricately tailored”, etc., are not necessary and do not help with the style and presentation of the manuscript. Please edit out or delete all emotive wordings.

-All figures and diagrams should be referred to from the paragraph, but there should be a subtitle for each figure. For example, the authors should include “Figure 2. Dosing trend according to weight, age, renal dose adjustment, and the output” before the Figure. Please add this to all figures. There are missing units for the axes. If the x-axis represents percentages, please provide the unit of % in the figure.

-Please spell check; there are misspellings in Figure 2. Please also state what the authors meant by “weight adjustment” as opposed to “weight”. This is either done in Materials and Methods or stated clearly in the subtitle before the figures.

-Authors need to state in the paragraphs their findings in a peer-reviewed manuscript. It is insufficient to refer readers to figures and to read the percentages by themselves. Authors, please state your findings in narratives, especially for Figures 2 and 3.

Discussion

“Despite meticulous monitoring, deficiencies persisted in patient education and antibiotic stewardship”—monitoring or audit is not a behavioral changing or education tool. There is no need for emotive discussion such as “meticulous”....Monitoring is an indirect tool to describe antibiotic use to provide evidence of the baseline of antibiotic use. Behavioral changing factors such as incentives, disincentives, or knowledge (sermon) are the instruments to implement policy or guidelines.

Consent

A common way to say personal privacy is protected is “Patient details are delinked from the data for privacy reasons.” This is not to be written in the Consent subsection. It is usually included in the Materials and Methods subsection.