Reviewer's report

Title: Should C-reactive protein concentration at ICU discharge be used as a prognostic marker?

Version: 1 Date: 18 August 2010

Reviewer: Ilja M Hoepelman

Reviewer's report:

A clearly written article on an important issue in ICU medical care, although not unique and of relatively small number compared to previous articles published on this topic.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Methods section: I miss the duration of follow-up of the patients included. Did authors used a fixed duration of follow-up such as 30 day post ICU mortality or was the duration of follow-up not determined. This has important implications for statistical analysis and is of major importance for interpretation of the results in relation to previous studies on this topic.

Results: It’s confusing to me that a 15% versus 33% difference is not statistical significant. Is this because the numbers are small?; Please provide in addition to percentages, numbers in your results section; especially since you did not choose to present the results in tables or figures and subgroup analyses are performed.

Minor Essential Revisions

Discussion: Please elaborate a bit more on the problem of generalizability in your study limitations section since present study was performed in a single center 8 bed ICU.

Discretionary Revisions

Results: I would recommend implementing 1 additional table of results giving an overview of the CRP values and differences for survivors and non survivors (with numbers included) of the 3 groups analyzed

Statistical review: Is it essential that this manuscript be seen by an expert statistician? Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report. The end-point is not clearly described yet (fixed duration of follow-up or not). I would advise to show the article to the statistician once authors responded to this issue, to determine if appropriate statistics are used. If so, I would recommend accepting the article for publication.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests'