Reviewer’s report

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

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 3 September 2010

**Reviewer:** Mark G. Coulthard

**Reviewer’s report:**

The authors have made the appropriate revisions to the manuscript. The authors findings are different to other published work in this area which does suggest that CRP on ICU discharge is predictive of post-ICU mortality. This is a smaller study than the other two papers in this area. Although there is no statistical difference between the post-ICU mortality between their patients stratified by CRP (CRP<5 mortality = 15.1% [n=9]), CRP between 5-10 mg/dL mortality = 16.1% [n=11], CRP > 10 mg/dL mortality = 33.3% [n=11], the patient numbers are small and a Type II error may be responsible. After all the mortality in the high CRP group is twice that in the lower groups? It is difficult to compare this study with the other two studies in this area (Litton 2007, Ho 200) which have a different ICU profile, mortality rates and CRP levels.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.