Reviewer's report

Title: Luminal lactate in acute pancreatitis - Validation and relation to disease severity.

Version: 1 Date: 5 December 2011

Reviewer: Basil Ammori

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
- The authors' hypothesis was that luminal lactate on admission predicts severity of acute pancreatitis, yet their conclusion does not refer to this at all. That luminal lactate did not predict severity needs to be stated. Moreover, the patients were not classified into mild and severe attacks and no method of classification was adopted. This shortcoming needs to be addressed.

- The authors overstate their conclusion "The association between rectal luminal lactate and oxygen tension indicates that luminal lactate is a marker mucosal anaerobiosis." In fact, that association was weak with an r²=0.3. This gives little support to the conclusion statement. This needs to be discussed.

- The 'Primary and secondary end point parameters" should be replaced with "Primary and secondary endpoints".

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests