Reviewer's report

Title: Diagnostic value of triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells-1 and C-reactive protein for patients with lung infiltrates: an observational study

Version: 1 Date: 11 April 2010

Reviewer: Christian Bopp

Reviewer's report:

Dear Dr. Porfyridis,

thank you for submitting your manuscript Diagnostic value of triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells-1 and C-reactive protein for patients with lung infiltrates: an observational study to BMC Infectious Diseases.

First of all, I wonder about the number of authors contributing equally to this work. In detail, all authors except the first author have an equal substantial contributing?

Please add a flow chart of the randomisation.

How did you calculate the number of patients? Please explain in detail and add the statistical material.


Laboratory investigation: How many times did you perform your ELISA? 2 or 3 times?

Statistical analysis. Why did you choose a cut-off value of 180 pg/ml? This data are from complete different patients with other medical problems. Please explain your transfer and provide substantial data.

Results: I am impressed of the 26% mortality in group A. What are the reasons for this high number? What were the comorbidities of these patients?

You did not mentioned anything about the rate, mode, length or influence of ventilation in your patients. Please add a appropriate section in you paper and state clear these points.

Why did you choose CRP and not PCT als control, or at least additional PCT in your patient management?

Did you perform CT scans regulary in respiratory patients with suspect focus? Would I suggest that the CT scan can add relevant informations to distinguish between the proposed 2 groups. Please discuss in detail.
Finally, your English language needs a revision in detail to improve your manuscript.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.