Reviewer’s report

Title: Prognostic Factors Related to Sequelae in Childhood Bacterial Meningitis: Data from the Meningitis Registry

Version: 1 Date: 26 August 2010

Reviewer: Francois Brivet

Reviewer’s report:

Majors comments

The main problem of this revised version is the statistical analysis.
As suggested in the previous comments authors spilt their population into two groups according to the confirmation or not of the diagnosis of Bacterial Meningitis, but for their analysis of prognostic factors the authors compare the subgroup “confirmed BM’ to the all population;
I am not sure that this comparison is adequate and thus that results are correct; Authors should describe the all population and then compare the two subgroups “confirmed BM “ and “suspected BM; Indeed if we focus on table 3 and particularly the sequelae , at evidence the sequelae occurred mainly in case of confirmed BM
In table 4, the analysis of the sequelae according to the pathogens is correct ONLY for the subgroup of confirmed BM with differences in the incidence ( estimated CHI2 : 60,2 p< 0.001) whereas the comparison with the all population is in my concern a nonsense.
Furthermore, I am not sure of the usefulness of a logistic regression for each type of acute complications or sequelae.
After the comparison of the two subgroups according to the documentation or not of their BM cases, the results would be more evident that sequelae occur mainly in case of Documented BM.

Minors comments

Even if the journal is a free FULL TEXT journal, authors should improved the abstract
( unchanged since the previous versions) ,the number of documented BM and the case
Fatality rate should at least appear, and results may change when using adequate comparison;
For the multivariate analysis instead of positive blood culture , authors should recalculate the OR after introducing “confirmed( or not) BM in their model