Reviewer’s report

Title: Pleural Fluid Soluble Triggering Receptor Expressed on Myeloid Cells-1 as a Marker of bacterial infection: a Meta-analysis.

Version: 1 Date: 8 May 2011

Reviewer: Sebastien Gibot

Reviewer’s report:

Although this meta analysis is concise and clear, I have several questions / remarks:
1) You searched articles from 1990…whereas the existence of TREM-1 was only known after 2000: it’s curious!
2) I’m not sure to understand how, in your selection process, 2 more studies were added to the 5 you selected
3) As the only retrospective study included (Porcel et al) gave the ‘worst’ results, how evolved heterogeneity when this study is censored?
4) In your discussion, could you comment on the usefulness of sTREM-1 as compared to usual markers (glucose, pH…)
5) There are too many abbreviations in the abstract
6) In the Intro section, I don’t think you’re right in stating that ‘TREM-1….dampening toll-like receptors induced signals’
7) In the results section: ‘cut-off….to 768.1 ng/mL’ (instead of 768.1 pg/mL). By the way, this latter study is very strange as it is the only one to find such an elevated level (1000 times higher than the 6 other studies!)
8) On Table 2: explain ‘TP’, ‘FP’, ‘FN’...

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

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