Reviewer's report

Title: Dynamic changes in serum soluble triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells-1 can assess severity of sepsis and predict prognosis : a prospective study

Version: 1 Date: 18 November 2010

Reviewer: Evangelos Giamarellos-Bourboulis

Reviewer's report:

The authors are analyzing differences between sTREM-1, CRP and PCT in the distinction of patients with severe sepsis than those with sepsis.

Major compulsory revisions

• The authors fail to describe any novel finding. What the authors should try to look for is a correlation between serial percent of changes of sTREM-1 from baseline and final outcome. This should be done taking into consideration the appropriateness of administered antibiotics and serial changes of PCT.

• The total number of enrolled patients is few compared with other published series. What was the power analysis defining the required final enrolment? Perhaps patients with severe sepsis and those with septic shock should be reported together as one group.

• Since estimated parameters followed non normal distribution, ANOVA cannot be used for comparisons.

Minor essential revisions

• If sTREM-1 is superior than PCT and CRP to distinguish sepsis from severe sepsis/shock, ROC analysis should be done.

Discretionary revisions

None

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests