Author's response to reviews

Title: Validation study of a diagnostic aid to rule out pneumonia in adults with cough and fever

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Dear Editor,

Attached is a manuscript entitled **Validation study of a diagnostic aid to rule out pneumonia in adults with cough and fever**. I would much appreciate your considering for publication in **BMC Infectious Diseases**.

Allow me to make the point that this article is the validation of a diagnostic aid. The derivation part has been published in BMJ Medicine in 2011 (Steurer J et al. A decision aid to rule out pneumonia and reduce unnecessary prescriptions of antibiotics in primary care patients with cough and fever. BMC Med 9;56).

We could show in a new population of primary care patients that the diagnostic aid is a safe instrument to rule out pneumonia. The application of this diagnostic aid could reduce unnecessary prescriptions of antibiotics.

This paper might be of interest to physicians caring for patients in an outpatient setting and could impact care of patients with cough and fever, and this is why I am submitting this manuscript to the **BMC Infectious Diseases**.

Respectfully yours,

Johann Steurer, MD
Professor