Reviewer's report

Title: Cognitive deficits following exposure to Pneumococcal Meningitis: An Event-Related Potential study

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Reviewer: Allan Tunkel

Reviewer's report:

1. Please clarify how the patients were chosen. You indicate that 92 cases were randomly chosen based on sample size calculations of a neuro-developmental study. I need clarification on exactly what that means.

2. There needs to be better definition of the control group. The only demographics listed are age and sex. What about other co-morbidities, including developmental delay, baseline intelligence, birth defects, HIV infection, malnutrition, lab data, etc. Since you are looking to examine findings between a disease and control group, it is critical to know if there are significant differences between the groups. Perhaps a table of all of these comparisons would also be useful.

3. In figures 2 and 7, I think it would be more illustrative to examine the control and PM groups in individual groups based on age.