Reviewer’s report

Title: The spectrum of spontaneous bacterial meningitis in elderly patients

Version: 2 Date: 18 January 2013

Reviewer: Joseph E Safdieh

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very nicely written analysis of bacterial meningitis in younger versus older adults in Spain over a 20 year period of time. The methods are clearly described and the results are laid out in a very clear and easy to interpret manner. Although the majority of their findings are not necessarily surprising, they are quite useful and consistent with what we see in practice. I think this is an important paper for trainees to read as it highlights the fact that older patients tend to have less nuchal rigidity, and therefore the absence of nuchal rigidity does not rule out the diagnosis of bacterial meningitis. This is an important point that was demonstrated.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

no