Reviewer’s report

Title: The spectrum of spontaneous bacterial meningitis in elderly patients

Version: 2 Date: 23 January 2013

Reviewer: Hakan Erdem

Reviewer’s report:

This report is important and should be published. Several minor concerns are as follows:

1. The term “spontaneous bacterial meningitis” is rather vague. Please change it as acute or community acquired bacterial meningitis.

2. The definition of bacterial meningitis:
   a) Neutrophilic pleocytosis: Would not you consider lymphocytic pleocytosis, as in the cases of acute neurobrucellosis, just refer as pleocytosis and omit neutrophilic or indicate the presence of an bacterial agent in case of lymphocytic pleocytosis
   b) Identification of gram-negative diplococci: What about of gram-positive lancet shaped diplococci in CSF culture negatives? Please specify


4. Is there any accumulation of L. monocytogenes to probable immunocompromising states like diabetes, alcoholism and etc. Please provide data

Best wishes

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:

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I have no competing interests in relation to the paper

Best wishes