Reviewer's report

Title: Severe imported falciparum malaria among adults requiring Intensive Care: a cohort study.

Version: 4 Date: 27 January 2013

Reviewer: Perry van Genderen

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

With interest I have read the revised manuscript. It has definitely improved in quality. In my opinion the paper should be accepted for publication as it is in its current format. Apart from a few remaining typo's (paragraph outcomes: ….patient consent was not required as this was a retrospective case not review), I only have two questions remaining (both are discretionary):

1. the first question that remains is generated by the new table 3 detailing the outcome of the patients who died, I wondered whether the ARDS could in fact be due to a TRALI (transfusion-related acute lung injury) after exchange transfusion? It is certainly worthwhile to explore the temporal relationship of ARDS and transfusion

2. The second question deals with the HIV testing. I highly respect the opinion of the authors, but from a scientific point of view I do not think it is sound to draw conclusions on a subset of patients with severe malaria and to extrapolate this finding in an advice for the whole population of malaria patients. In our Dutch population for instance where HIV background prevalence is very low, we only do HIV tests in patients with severe malaria (and did not found a single case).

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.