Reviewer's report

Title: Hydrocephalus is a rare outcome in community-acquired bacterial meningitis in adults: a retrospective analysis

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Reviewer: Cheng-Hsien Lu

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REFEREE'S COMMENT SHEET- Manuscript Number: BMC Infectious Diseases 1066633928151023 Title: Hydrocephalus is a rare outcome in community-acquired bacterial meningitis in adults: a retrospective analysis

This is a clinical study evaluating the prevalence and outcome in hydrocephalus complicated with community-acquired bacterial meningitis. We appreciate the amount of hard work that has gone into your study, but feel that the prevalence rate of hydrocephalus in adult community-acquired bacterial meningitis can not be reliably assessed in population-base rather hospital-based study; Furthermore, more than 25% (45/167) of patients did not receive brain CT study, and brain CT did not routine follow up to exclude the possibility of progressive hydrocephalus. The major shortcoming is its methodology. There are several concerns in this study which may influence the statistical results and have a statistical bias. First, the definition of hydrocephalus or presence of hydrocephalus could be different by the different neuroradiologists. Second, the timing of brain CT study, the rate of brain CT study in bacterial meningitis patients and follow-up study to exclude the possibility of progressive hydrocephalus or not may influence the prevalence rate in this study. Finally, asymptomatic progressive hydrocephalus may be underestimating if no routine follow-up brain CT studies in each patient. Consequently, the conclusions that can be drawn are very limited.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests