Reviewer’s report

Title: Prognostic factors affecting outcome in bacteremia - a historical cohort study with a focus on age and age-related clinical presentation

Version: 2 Date: 15 February 2013

Reviewer: Anna Levin

Reviewer’s report:

My main concern regarding this study is that, although thorough, it is confusing as to its objectives. Initially it seems to evaluate factors associated with outcomes (organ failure and death within 14 days of hospitalization) however the authors present a lot of data on the characteristics and outcomes by age category and on how CPR and SIRS criteria predict organ failure as well as the microorganism (S. pneumoniae) and infection site. It is not clear why factors such as CPR, SIRS 2 and SIRS 3 were not included in the multivariate analysis.

Should one of the main objectives of the study be to compare the characteristics of infection, clinical presentation and outcome between different age groups?

I feel also that Tables 4 and 5 should present data on the bivariate analyses of all factors evaluated not only the ones that were included in the multivariate analyses.

In summary, I believe that the study should be revised. Each specific objective should be presented and the methods and results should be simplified in order to answer the objectives.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.