Reviewer’s report

Title: Procalcitonin Guided Antibiotic Therapy of Acute Exacerbations of Asthma

Version: 3 Date: 25 May 2013

Reviewer: Jens-Ulrik Jensen

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Major compulsory Revisions:
1) No mention of adherence to the protocol is done. It is normal in a randomized trial to account for protocol violations and non-adherence to intervention

2) How was the randomization done ? No mention of this. This is important info when interpreting an RCT. Sealed opaque envelopes / Computarized randomization, cluster-randomization ? Who was blinded - was there blinded outcome assessment ?

3) Why is Odds ratio used for the main result. This is normally used for case-control studies, not randomized trials, where relative risk is common

4) The discussion has many statements obtained from other studies, however, these are only sporadically cited - the discussion needs to be re-written and references should be made for all statements that are not based in data from the curent study

5) In the discussion, it is stated: "At room temperature PCT is stabile and not degraded". Can the authors please make appropriate reference for this statment and nuance the statement

6) The text needs to be read and commented by an English speaking person

7) table 1 : remove the p-values.

8) Not readable - please re-do the table

Minor: Present in the title and/or abstract that it is a randomized trial - this is important.

3)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'