Reviewer's report

Title: Procalcitonin Guided Antibiotic Therapy of Acute Exacerbations of Asthma: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Version: 5 Date: 14 November 2013

Reviewer: Jens-Ulrik Jensen

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Minor Essential:
A paragraph on power is added to the discussion. This should be added to the methods section.

It is stated that "detect the difference in usage of antibiotics". This is not interesting, when the expected effect of the strategy is not stated. Expecting (unrealistically) a 90% effect of an intervention will result in a power estimated very high with very few patients. For power calculations to make sense, the expected effect has to be reported - this is (together with the alpha value and the control group incidence of the endpoint) the premises for a valuable power calculation

Also: How is the primary endpoint for this calculation defined? In the methods section, the primary endpoint is stated to be "antibiotic usage". Please define this precisely

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:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'