Author's response to reviews

Title: Arthritis in adults with community-acquired bacterial meningitis: a prospective cohort study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Newmark,

Please find enclosed the revised version of our manuscript “Arthritis in adults with community-acquired bacterial meningitis: a prospective cohort study.” The suggestions of the reviewers were very helpful to us and have improved our manuscript. We have listed all changes in a point-by-point response.

**Reviewer 1.**
1. The mortality rates of patients with and without arthritis and a comparison of patients with pneumococcal meningitis and meningococcal meningitis are presented in the revised version of our manuscript (p5,r7-10).
2. The sentence has been adapted according to the suggestion of the reviewer (p4,r5-7).
3. We agree with the reviewer that gout and pseudogout are important diagnostic considerations in patients with sterile arthritis. This remark has been added to the discussion of our manuscript (p6,r22-23). We would like to thank the reviewer for his/her suggestion.
4. The conclusion and the abstract have been adapted according to the comment of the reviewer (p2,19-23; p8,r22-p9,r2).

**Reviewer 2.**
1. The sentence has been adapted (p5,r5).

Yours sincerely,

Martijn Weisfelt