Author's response to reviews

Title: Procalcitonin (PCT) and C-reactive Protein (CRP) as severe systemic infection markers in febrile neutropenic adults.

Authors:

Karin S.R. Massaro (rukarin.massaro@uol.com.br)
Silvia F Costa (silvia.costa@pq.cnpq.br)
Claudio Leone (sccihsecretaria@hcnet.usp.br)
Dalton AF Chamone (sccihsecretaria@hcnet.usp.br)

Version: 3 Date: 16 August 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer: Efthymia Giannitsioti

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. We included fungal and bacterial in the same group because we have only two cases with fungal infection.

2. The definition of sepsis and colonizers was added to the text.

3. We modified the discussion followed the suggestions of the reviewer.

Minor essential Revisions

1. p values were added for demographics, laboratory etc…only death was significant.

2. We consult our statistic and the interpretation of the data was rewritten.

3. PCR was replaced by CRP.

4. Table 2 was omitted and all related information was incorporated into the text. FUO with contaminants was clarified.

5. Reference was added to the discussion. Because of the recommendations about the number of references we could add only one reference.

Reviewer: Dominique Gendrel

1. The study evaluated different cut-off comparing with available data on the literature. Because of this we decided we keep our analysis.

2. Discussion about the values of PCT in neutropenic patients was added to the text.

3. The paper was shortened.
Reviewer: Evangelos Giamarellos-Bourboullis

1. There is a misunderstanding regarding the design of the study, it was only a cohort study.
2. The statistical test was fixed.
3. The power of study was Calculated *a posteriori*, considering the sample size of 52 patients (two groups of 26), the observed areas under the ROC curve of 79.1% for PCT and of 50.0% for CPR and the Spearman (rank) coefficients between PCT and CPR of 0.07 for Group 1 and of 0.08 Group 2, the power of the test (1-β) was of 0.80 to discriminate the areas difference.
4. There is no follow up of PCT.
5. There is no difference comparing gram-negative and gram-positive and because of the size of population of our study we decided to omitted this information.
6. The discussion about the results regarding the ROC for PCT found by Giamarellou et al was added to the text.

Minor essential revisions:
The English was revised and the tables were fixed.

Thank you so much.
Best Regards.

Silvia F. Costa