Reviewer’s report

Title: Procalcitonin (PCT) and C-reactive Protein (CRP) as indicators of infection in febrile neutropenic adults.

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Reviewer: Dominique Gendrel

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Procalcitonin (PCT) and C-reactive Protein (CRP) as indicators of infection in febrile neutropenic adults.

This paper confirms previous data on the value of procalcitonin as a marker of infection in neutropenic patients. Even if comparable results were already published, I think that it is important to publish the confirmation, in regard of the diagnosis difficulties of this major problem.

Three points could be discussed:

1) The choice of the cut-off values for procalcitonin is made from a mathematical model. All clinicians would be satisfied with a more simple model: I suggest the cut-off values of 0.5 ng/ml and 2 ng/ml. These numbers are easy to memorised and, more, they are the 2 values available on the bedside rapid test for procalcitonin.

2) There is no discussion about the values of PCT in neutropenic patients. In these patients, even with a positive blood culture, the PCT values are usually lower than in septicemic patients with normal white blood cells.

3) The paper is long, with several tables. It could be shortened, after the decision of editorial office.