Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 11 July 2007

Reviewer: Efthymia Giannitsioti

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Re-evaluation of inclusion of both fungal and bacterial infections into the same group. As recently reported, PCT serum levels could be similarly low between fungal and localised infections in febrile neutropenia. A distinguished data could provide with more clear results.

2. Definition of "sepsis" as well as "known colonisers" should be given in material and methods.

3. Discussion must be more focused and comprehensible according to the results of the study and the literature, reminding that the current results referred to only one measurement of serum PCT and CRP levels at the onset of fever in patients with neutropenia.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. p values should be addressed for demographics, laboratory findings and outcome (death) between the 2 groups of study.

2. Although statistical process is explained, interpretation of the data could be more clear if used terms that are more familiar to clinicians (eg negative or/and positive prognostic values of PCT and CRP).

3. Regarding figures, some minor suggestions as for eg obviously replace "PCR" by "CRP" in all figures.

4. Some remarks for additional files: Illustration of the results in tables should be reassessed. For instance, table 2 could be omitted and all related information be incorporated into the text. Table 1 must distinguish between the 2 groups of the study. Determinations on tables must be clarified (eg. what's "FUO with contaminants"?)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.