Reviewer’s report

Title: Failure of recombinant factor VIIa in a patient with severe polymicrobial sepsis and postoperative uncontrolled intraabdominal bleeding

Version: 3 Date: 11 February 2007

Reviewer: Anne-Cornelie de Pont

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

The article by Dr. Conen and coworkers has much improved.

I only have a few minor comments:

• Page 5, line 16: This sentence can be better formulated: 'As the treatment with metformin had been stopped at admission, when lactate levels were within normal limits, the current progressive lactic acidosis was ascribed to ongoing sepsis.'

• Page 7, line 4: This sentence can be better formulated: 'Meng et al. describe that a decrease in pH from 7.4 to 7.0 reduces the activity of FVIIa by over 90% in an in vitro setting.'

• Page 7, line 16: 'non-overt DIC' should be 'overt DIC', as the ISTH score was equal to 5 at that time (platelets < 100 = 1, PT 5 sec prolonged = 1, strong increase in D-dimers = 3, fibrinogen 1.2 = 0). This is also consistent with the statement on page 5, line 25. The term 'non-overt' can also be deleted from the abstract (line 6) and from the introduction (page 4, line 3).

• Page 8, line 10: in the literature

• Page 8, line 18 can be better formulated: 'or occur in patients with severe comorbidities, offering a more probable explanation for a thromboembolic event than rFVIIa.'

• Page 8, line 10: from the literature

After correction of these items, I think this case report is ready for publication in BMC infectious diseases.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.