Reviewer's report

Title: Low CD4 Count plus Coma Predicts Cryptococcal Meningitis in Tanzania

Version: 1 Date: 22 December 2006

Reviewer: Ploenchon Chetchotisakd

Reviewer's report:

The general concept of the article is good, to identify the predictor of cryptococcal meningitis (CM) in the resource poor setting. However, it is known that cryptococcosis is the most common central nervous system infection and manifest as CM. The simple screening test and very sensitive test is cryptococcal antigen in the serum. The use of low CD4 count and coma as the predictors for CM is not practical. CD4 counts are not available at the time of presentation of coma. The CD4 count testing is more complicated, time consuming, and expensive than cryptococcal Ag.

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

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

no