Reviewer's report

Title: Serum macrophage migration inhibitory factor reflects adrenal function in hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis in septic patients: an observational study

Version: 6 Date: 5 November 2009

Reviewer: Marcelo Park

Reviewer's report:

Review: Serum macrophage migration inhibitory factor reflects adrenal function in hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis in septic patients: an observational study.

This is a clinical study aiming to show the association between the function of hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis and macrophage migration inhibitory factor in septic patients. 41 septic patients were enrolled, the authors found a weak correlation between delta cortisol and MIF, which slightly improved when serum cortisol was normatizated to albumin. There was a MIF threshold value between patients with and without adrenal failure.

MAJOR COMMENTS
• The background section is very illustrative
• In the methods section / statistics, was a goodness-of-fit model used in order to test the normality of data?
• In the discussion, I really understood the physiological relevance and clinical potential, however, I would like to better understand the current clinical relevance of the study finding, that is, is the MIF dosage a simple one? Is it feasible in routine labs?

MINOR COMMENTS
• There are some english language errors to be corrected

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.