Reviewer's report

Title: Selected acute phase CSF factors in ischemic stroke: findings and prognostic value

Version: 4 Date: 17 February 2011

Reviewer: Juergen Eggers

Reviewer's report:

I would like to congratulate the authors to their very dedicated responses on the questions both reviewers had. In summary, I believe that this manuscript is worth to be published.

However, please make some final changes (minor essential revisions) in Table 1:
Please specify more exactly "group 1 and 2."

Gender distribution: I do not understand the reason group 1 has 20something percent male and 20something percent females? At least, it is not clear to the reader how the gender distribution is. Additionally, normally it is only required to show one gender (e.g: "45% females" and the reader knows the rest were male).

line with "age": the unit is "years", I guess, but it should be added, like the units in the other lines, e.g. "%"

NIHSS mean and SD: well, as the NIHSS is an ordinal variable, and so the values should be displayed as median and range (or interquartil range) rather than mean and SD.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.