Reviewer's report

Title: Autonomic nervous system dysfunction predicts poor prognosis in patients with mild to moderate tetanus

Version: 1 Date: 2 September 2004

Reviewer: Jeremy Farrar

Reviewer's report:

This is a retrospective review of the case notes of 96 patients with tetanus admitted to two hospitals in Pakistan.

It addresses an important and often neglected disease and focuses on a critical aspect ie the Autonomic dysfunction. The authors accept the limitations of a retrospective review. I would encourage the clinicians to plan a prospective study if they are able to. There is a dearth of good contemporary reports on clinical manifestations of tetanus a disease which still kills hundreds of thousands of people in the developing world every year.

It is well written, the data is well presented and the references appropriate.

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None