Reviewer's report

**Title:** Phagocytic ability of neutrophils and monocytes in neonates.

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 28 February 2011

**Reviewer:** Morgan R Peltier

**Reviewer's report:**

Just a few Minor Essential Revisions...

**Abstract**

1. the the results subsection, "... a defect more pronounced in preterm neonates." does not match with what was presented in fig 1. Neonates and preterm infants had the same degree of phagocytosis inhibition. Please consider replacing this dependent clause with a new sentence on the results of the spearman correlation for gestational age and phagocytosis.

2. in the results subsection, it is stated that "The 3rd postnatal day the phagocytic ability of neutrophils increased" but the comparison on Table 1 was not significant between cord and day 3 neutrophils". This should be corrected to state that the reduction was no longer significant by day 3.

**Methods**

1. Move reference to the information in table to the begining of the results section.

2. To table 1 add statistical test (t-test) comparing birth weight and gestational age at delivery.

**Results**

3. Table 2. Put actual P-values in rather than NS for non-significant results. Significant P values can be highlighted in bold type.

4. Table 2. Reverse order of P-value columns to cord blood vs. day 3, cord blood vs. adults, day3 vs. adults.