Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Impact of C-reactive protein test results on evidence-based decision-making in cases of bacterial infection

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 12 March 2012

**Reviewer:** Stephen C Aronoff

**Reviewer's report:**

This study examines how the use of C-reactive protein results impacts the care of neonates and children with suspected infections. The authors have reviewed the use of the test in 92 neonates and 152 febrile children and have determined what the rate of inappropriate use of the test is. The authors then use the cost of the inappropriate tests as the main outcome of the study.

1. While the authors have demonstrated that there is a cost to inappropriate ordering of the test, that cost, at least by American standards, is insignificant. As such, it will not hold much sway with American pediatricians.

2. The authors should focus much more on their review of the appropriate use of these tests in neonates and children. In particular, they appear to have enough data to develop guidelines for the use of this test.

3. The authors should provide much more detail about how this test is used and misused in their clinical setting. This will provide useful information for other clinicians who wish to assess their own use of CRP.

**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