Reviewer's report

Title: Deficiency of ADAMTS-13 in Pediatric Patients with Severe Sepsis and the impact on outcome.

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2013

Reviewer: VINCENZO DE FILIPPIS

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The results of this study indicate that 65% pediatric patients with sepsis have low levels of ADAMTS13 and that 75% of the latter patients also display lower than normal platelet counts. However, as stated by the Authors, correlation between lower ADAMTS13 levels, thrombocytopenia and mortality was not statistically significant, likely because of the problems that occurred during the follow-up of the patients.

As recognized by the Authors, these results match those previously reported by others in different studies (refs 13, 26). Nevertheless, the results (albeit confirmatory) may have important implications in understanding the clinical effects of alterations in the ADAMTS13-vWF system.

Finally, the use of ADAMTS13 as a prognostic marker emphasized in the discussion (last phrase) should be downregulated.

Typing errors should be corrected (es: Introduction, page 5: ....we conducted this study is to detect...)

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.