**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** The role of lumbar puncture in children with suspected central nervous system infection

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**Reviewer:** Dr henriette moll

**Level of interest:** A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Advice on publication:** Reject

I read, with interest, the manuscript "the role of lumbar puncture.."The study was based on thh retrospective inclusion based on diagnosis

Therefor the meningeal signs as presenting symptoms in children with lymphadenopathy, viral infections etc are not included. The authors are rather suprised that only 53% of the patients underwent a lumbar puncture. In the discussion, the authors wrote that although no LP's were performed in patients who should have one, however the outcome of children who don't had a LP was not described. Therefore no conclusion can be drawn.

I agree from the clinical point of view that not all children presenting with one meningeal sign need a LP. I suggest based on the methodological errors in this study, not tp publish this.

**Competing interests:**

None declared.