Reviewer's report

Title: Procalcitonin predicts all-cause and cancer mortality in apparently healthy men: a prospective population-based study

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Reviewer: Eric Nylen

Reviewer's report:

Overall a very well written and concise manuscript with novel findings that expands on the role of procalcitonin as a biomarker beyond sepsis and SIRS. The main concern relates to the actual performance of the PCT sensitive LIA. The functional sensitivity (FS) quoted from reference 21 does not correspond to other studies (see Becker KL et al Crit Care Med 2008;36:941) where the FS is about 50 pg/mL and healthy controls average ~ 13 pg/mL. Although there is a statistical difference between quartile 1 and quartile 4, there is great uncertainty when all the procalcitonin concentrations fall below the FS. Moreover, could this be part of the explanation for the lack of significance in women? Unless the authors have additional information regarding the assay used, this uncertainty should be acknowledged for the benefit of future investigators.

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