Reviewer's report

Title: Gene expression profiling unveils a novel biomarker combination for the diagnosis of serious bacterial infections in children

Version: 2 Date: 19 January 2012

Reviewer: Lisa F.P. Ng

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Major Compulsory Revisions
General comments:
The manuscript reports on the gene expression profiles of patients with sepsis and included the use of various approaches from Affymetrix microarray and standard ELISA arrays. However, the study is based on known biomarkers associated with SBI. This study doesn't bring any new information.

Specific comments:
1. The "Background" section should be re-written to give a better focus. Shorten the general description of biomarkers. Instead, improve the background of SBI, including the clinical descriptions. Give details to the known biomarkers that have been associated with the disease.

2. The "Results" needs to improve on the flow to strengthen the angle for this purpose of this study.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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