Reviewer's report

Title:'Sepsis-related anemia' is absent at hospital presentation; a retrospective cohort analysis.

Version:6 Date:3 January 2015

Reviewer:Jean-Louis Vincent

Reviewer's report:

The paper has improved, but some changes are still necessary

I realize the authors did not cite and discuss the study by Nguyen et al (including myself) in Crit Care Med 2003 on the time course of hemoglobin levels in septic patients. This is important, as the message is quite similar.

Other points:
-Results : "In the S-group, the Hb concentration at ICU admission was significantly lower in comparison to the Hb concentration at ED presentation (7.7 #} 1.1 versus 8.8 #} 1.1 mmol/l, p<0.001).": this is unclear. I suppose it means that it decreased over time. Maybe this should be combined with the next sentence.
-Discussion : "Finally, sepsis itself may cause an increase in intravascular space. This increase in intravascular space may be due to the loss of vasomotor tone : what else could it be due to ?
-Next sentence : "intravenous fluid administration is necessary to counteract a reduction in cardiac output": not only that, but also to reach the typical hyperkinetic state.
-Next sentence "In addition, shedding of the glycocalyx during sepsis has been described [12-14].": not only it has been described, it is considered as a fact.

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

Quality of written English:Acceptable

Statistical review:No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.