Reviewer's report

Title: Cytokine responses to Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infection differ between patient cohorts that have different clinical courses of infection.

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Reviewer: Andrew Edwards

Reviewer's report:

Most of the points have been addressed. However, a few things should be addressed before publication and I am not convinced that the data in figures 3 and 4 are presented in the best way, especially after seeing the revised figure 2.

• Major Compulsory Revisions

The manuscript now includes cytokine data from 4 healthy controls (actually in Figure 3 and not Figure 2 as stated in the rebuttal). The rebuttal states that this represents the range of values but is in fact only the mean average. Furthermore, these data are not mentioned at all in the manuscript.

• Minor Essential Revisions

Lines 163 and 166 refer to Figure 2, Panel A/C/D. This should be Figure 3, Panel A… Also, no reference is made to panel B. Why not?

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.