Reviewer’s report

Title: Measurement of serum procalcitonin levels for the early diagnosis of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in patients with decompensated liver cirrhosis

Version: 1  Date: 12 August 2014

Reviewer: wieslaw furmaga

Reviewer’s report:

Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The publication well addressed the answer for the question posed.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
The method is well described and appropriate for the publication.

3. Are the data sound?
The serum concentration for PCT is described in text and in the table as 3.02 +/- 3.30 ng/mL; it means that the range of concentrations were between - (negative) 0.28 and +(positive) 6.32. How it is possible that concentration is negative? (minor essential revision is needed).
The description of Figure 1 and 2 need to include cut offs for the presenting analyses. Otherwise, the both figures seems to be the same. (the author can be trusted to make this revision).

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes, reporting and data deposition adhere to the standards.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Discussion and conclusions are adequately supported by the data.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
It should be clearly stated that this study is retrospective and its data should be confirmed on prospective, randomized multicenter study. (the author can be trusted to make this revision)

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes, it is clearly stated.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes, they are.
9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests