Reviewer's report

Title: Serum galactomannan index for early prediction of mortality in immunocompromised children with invasive pulmonary aspergillosis

Version: 2  Date: 2 June 2015

Reviewer: Adilia Warris

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded to my comments in great detail and the manuscript has improved a lot. I only wish to make a few comments on the revised version of the manuscript.

1. The authors have addressed the question about the use of antibiotics and its possible influence on false-positive GMI very well. For clarity I would suggest to add antibiotic usage (e.g. meropenem and pip-tazo) in table 2 and to mention the information as displayed in table 3 only in the text (as is done properly).

2. I am content with the extra information about GM positivity in addition to the GMI in both the text and table 4. In particular for clinical argumentation it is important to show the duration and differences in positive GM results. I only noted a slight mistake in the text (line 203-205), I suppose the authors would like to state that the frequency of positive GM was also higher in the fatality group than in the survival group (and not the other way around).

3. Line 250-251; reason for persistent high GMI or positive GMI can also be related to underlying immunosuppression, is important to mention here.

4. Line 260; please add the recent publication of Marr et al here, they performed a study to assess the value of combination therapy (anidula and voriconazole) and the conclusions of this study may suggest that combination treatment may have a benefit in the most severely ill patients (as may be reflected by persistent high GMI).

5. Figure 2 in my opinion doesn't add any information and could be omitted.

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.