Reviewer’s report

Title: Mechanistic Study of the Cause of Decreased Blood 1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D in Sepsis

Version: 1 Date: 28 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Kursad Unluhizarci

Reviewer's report:

The authors appropriately answered the comments/questions except my fourth question (The question and the answer is shown). The answer is not satisfactory, thus this issue (a transformation by arbitrarily dividing all values with a factor of "2"). should be added as a limitation of the study.

Q4: Figure 1E: Control subjects are healthy people !!. Why their serum creatinine level is also increased ?

We agree that normal healthy control subjects should not have higher creatinine levels. We checked the original data and found that we used a kit for this specific measurement from a company different from that for other creatinine measurements. All the values from this specific kit trended higher. Since the main purpose of this data is to compare between normal healthy controls and sepsis patients, we performed a transformation by arbitrarily dividing all values with a factor of "2". The newly transformed data are presented in Figure 1F. We hope that this is a scientifically acceptable method for data presentation under this specific scenario. In addition, this was a separated experiment. Therefore, data from the rest of this manuscript are not affected.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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