Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficacy of serial C-reactive protein and newborn scale of sepsis for screening of neonatal sepsis at Muhimbili National Hospital, Dar es Salaam

Version: 2 Date: 6 August 2014

Reviewer: Fred Were

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Major revisions

1. Title to be crafted to remove the word efficacy

2. Abstract should contain a study background.

3. Methodology section has not described the study population adequately (selection, exclusion/inclusion, timing of full inclusion).

4. Results.
The ROC need more detailed explanation. At present the curves are presented against a small supporting text. The authors do not demonstrate clear understanding of this analysis

The PPV and NPV data are presented in one of the tables. No further text description or discussion about these important parameters is seen. This being a clinical diagnostic study these two parameters hold as much if not more importance than sensitivity specificity values. They are not even mentioned in the discussion

5. Discussion
No mention of PPV/NPV
Inadequate comparison with regional, more relevant data.
No mention of previous validation information regarding the clinical diagnostic tool used

Minor Issues
A number of small grammatical issues helpful for improving the quality were noted. Authors should read through again to make the necessary adjustments

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