Reviewer’s report

Title: The NeBoP score - a Clinical Prediction Test for Evaluation of Children with Lyme Neuroborreliosis in Europe

Version: 1 Date: 22 August 2015

Reviewer: Paul Lantos

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary Revision -

My only concern with this very useful study is the small sample and clinical heterogeneity of the negative control subjects. The study establishes the sensitivity of the NeBoP score for Lyme borreliosis -- but the negative controls comprise 49 subjects with 22 different medical illnesses. Lyme has a much more confined set of neurologic presentations than do these 22 illnesses as a group, so in essence there really was no negative control group in this study. A more useful comparison would be 49 subjects with enteroviral meningitis.

Another important comparison would be with patients who had suppurative bacterial meningitis. A premise mentioned in the beginning of the paper is that this prediction score would allow prompter administration of antibiotics. Often times, however, children being evaluated for Lyme meningitis are going to get antibiotics active against bacterial meningitis anyway. Would the NeBoP score adequately differentiate Lyme from pneumococcus or meningococcus?

These issues could be discussed at greater length in the discussion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.