Reviewer’s report

Title: Neutrophil CD64 index in cerebrospinal fluid as a marker of bacterial ventriculitis in children with external ventricular drainage

Version: 2 Date: 06 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Brian Smith

Reviewer's report:

Overall

Single center prospective cohort study of 21 children with 33 episodes of clinically suspected meningitis. The investigator evaluated the utility of several diagnostic parameters in the blood and CSF including CD64 in the CSF.

Specific

1. Background - change "In adult population" to "In an adult population".

2. Methods - what volume of CSF is needed for the CD64 in testing?

3. How were optimal cut-off values determined from the AUC curves?

4. P values should generally be rounded to the nearest hundredths throughout.

5. Result - In the text of the results, the actual cutoff value used for CD64 in should be given when reporting the sensitivity and specificity of the test.

6. Table 1 - % should be added for categorical variables.

7. Table 1 - would move the list of the organisms from the table to the text.

8. Was any consideration given to the possibility that some of the CSF positive cultures might be contaminants?
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:

Acceptable

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