



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2015_IJTDH_18410
Title of the Manuscript:	Usefulness of Various Biomarkers for the Differentiation of Bacterial from Viral Meningitis
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	Authors compared different biochemical parameters to distinguish between bacterial versus aseptic meningitis and concluded that sTREM-1 and IL-8 are valuable in early distinguishing of septic from aseptic meningitis. They supported the diagnostic discriminatory power for sTREM-1 in determining septic meningitis prognosis. In addition they suggested that this marker would facilitate the clinical decision of interrupting antimicrobial therapy and avoiding unnecessary hospitalization. Major comments: 1. The number of patients in each group appears to be small to come up with cut points . 2. Was LP done for the control group because only of fever ?? 3. The numbers in tables 1, and 2 do not show the mean +/- SD . The numbers can not be read properly in this form 4. Table 1 and 3 can be presented in one table 5. Figures are of low quality	The number of the cases of meningitis were not large enough and we cannot find cases easily The control group was defined by absence of inflammatory cells in CSF (WBC<5mm) and sterile bacteriological findings in febrile child with positive meningeal signs We corrected it in the text We corrected it in the text



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	6. Table 2 can be deleted and data summerized in one line in result section Authors mentioned that : Su et al.(14) agreed with their results ..ect sTREM-1 level was significantly low at admission in patients with poor outcome with nearly stationary value after 48-72 h, the low baseline sTREM-1 level was found to be the prognostic factor of the poor outcome and elevated baseline sTREM-1 level could be a valuable protective marker. On the contrary authors stated that Six (27.1) of 25 patients with septic meningitis showed poor outcome and died while their Serum sTREM-1 level (107.5 ng/ml vs 41.415.5 ng/ml, Z=2.7; P<0.001) i.e higher on admission. This needs good explanation. ethical issues --The authors did not give explanation to why they did LP for controls (only with fever ??)	The quality is improved We deleted it It seems that our conclusion was valid and the reviewer by mistake read wrong finding as the six cases who died had low base line level of sTREM-1 (10/-7.5ng/ml) when compared with survival cases of septic meningitis (32.99/-19.79ng/ml) The control group was defined by absence of inflammatory cells in CSF (WBC<5mm) and sterile bacteriological findings in febrile children with positive meningeal signs
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	The manuscript needs language review and editing.	Being reviewed and edited
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		