Reviewer’s report

Title: Baseline characteristics and patient reported outcome data of patients prescribed etanercept: web-based and telephone evaluation

Version: 2 Date: 13 February 2011

Reviewer: Marinka Twilt

Reviewer’s report:

Overall comment:
This study is one of the first to describe PROBE as method to gather information on patients using biologicals. This method seems to be an effective way to gather naturalistic information of patients with chronic disease and their treatment.

Minor Essential revision:
How many patients were eligible to enter the study? This is not clearly stated in the paper and this could influence the outcome as a bias could well be introduced if only 50% of the eligible patients did participate. Please clarify. Are the 344 patients the total amount of patients placed on a biological or are these the ones that have responded? Is there a way to see if there is a difference between responders and non-responders? Please address this question.

Discretionary Revisions:
It would be interesting if the authors are able to give some longitudinal data already. They state the PROBE study asks for additional information 2 weeks, 1 month and every 2 months until 6 months. Is any data available already? It would strengthen the paper if more follow up data was available already.

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