Reviewer’s report

Title: Diagnostic Accuracy of Cyst Fluid Amphiregulin in Pancreatic Cysts

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Reviewer: Mike Larvin

Reviewer’s report:

This study is a potentially useful addition to the thorny issue of pancreatic cyst fluid diagnosis. I enjoyed reading this paper.

Minor essential revisions and queries:

It is self-evident that if 2-8% of the population have a pancreatic cyst and half are potentially malignant, then cystadenocarcinomas would be beginning to dominate the known incidence of pancreas cancers. Was this an error?

Methods: Could the authors confirm whether 2 freeze-thaw cycles is deleterious to the detection of AREG in their own lab?

Results: This study adds useful information to existing methods, allowing for sample size as the authors acknowledge.

EUS is becoming a gold standard for pre-operative diagnosis of pancreatic cystic lesions, but in the absence of malignant cells marker elevations are not always helpful. Further studies appear justified and it may be that AREG has a diagnostic role alongside CEA and imaging findings.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I, Michael Larvin MD, have no competing interests.