Reviewer’s report

Title: Fibroblast growth factor 23 contributes to diminished bone mineral density in childhood inflammatory bowel disease

Version: 1 Date: 13 March 2012

Reviewer: Franco Scaldaferrri

Reviewer’s report:

Well written, interesting paper, clear and simple descriptive aim. Methods are well detailed, and data consistent with previous reports.

The introduction session is probably too brief, at least few more information about the exact role of FGF23 and PHEX should be better clarified, so that the hypothesis would sound more interesting and intriguing.

Few points need to be better addressed:
1 - which therapy enrolled patients were following before and after the flare;
2 - time for the second evaluation after reaching the remission (weeks, months??)
3 - into the discussion session it should be stated issues related to bone density and time related to normalization/reduction
4 - clarify, in case of vit D deficiency whether a therapeutical intervention was provided and if not (as it appears reading this article), why and how this can be justified

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.