Reviewer’s report

Title: Imbalance of tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases (TIMP) - 1 and - 4 serum levels, in patients with inflammatory bowel disease

Version: 1 Date: 7 March 2008

Reviewer: Ioannis Koutroubakis

Reviewer’s report:

The authors present an important, nicely conceived and analyzed study. This paper builds on the current literature documenting the role of tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases (TIMPs) in IBD. Only minor changes are needed.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. TIMPs are important markers of fibrosis. Although the number of CD patients is rather small for subgroup analysis, the results in relation to the disease type and especially in stenotic vs non-stenotic disease should be provided in more detail.
2. Possible differences in TIMPs levels between pre-and post-menopausal women should be examined and reported.
3. Figure 3 could be better depicted using smaller scale since values higher than 10,000 pg/ml are not included.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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