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: 31 March 2008

Reviewer: N Yoshida

Reviewer’s report:

In this study, authors demonstrate the importance of serum levels of TIMP-1 and -4 in the patients with IBD. In the clinical field, it is very important to detect the marker of the activity in IBD patients. As the authors conclude that the TIMP-1 serum levels may be a useful marker of disease activity in IBD, this paper includes very important and interesting points.

Major points

1. In this study, serum TIMP-2 levels have no statistically significant difference between IBD patients and HC. So the authors do not have to show “figure 2”; serum TIMP-2 data.

2. In this study, the author should show the importance of serum TIMP-1 levels which is correlated with the activity of IBD. They determined that TIMP-1 levels are significantly higher in patients with active IBD as compared with patients with inactive disease. This data should be much more important than figure 2; serum TIMP-2 data.

No minor points are detected.