Reviewer's report

Title: Mapping of Hormones and Cortisol Responses in Patients after Neuroborreliosis.

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Reviewer: Tobias Rupprecht

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The manuscript "Mapping of Hormones and Cortisol Responses in Patients after Neuroborreliosis" by Tjernberg et al. deals with a very intensively debated phenomenon: the recurrent reports of persistent, mainly unspecific symptoms after treated Lyme neuroborreliosis. The question, whether disturbances of the hormone axis could be responsible for these complaints is a very attractive theory and is based on observations in other chronic infectious diseases. Overall, the study is well designed and the authors are very honest with their conclusions. However, it has to be kept in mind, that this is a more or less negative study, even though the findings of an increased cortisol responsiveness might be a slight hint for a role of hormones in "post lyme disease syndrome". In conclusion, there are no major points of criticism, except that the study by Seltzer et al. JAMA 2000 should be included in the introduction. In my opinion, it is worth to publish these results as they could guide the way for further studies in this field.

Tobias A Rupprecht, MD

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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