Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk of infections in bronchiectasis during disease-modifying treatment and biologics for rheumatic diseases

Version: 3 Date: 25 May 2011

Reviewer: Hideo Kobayashi

Reviewer’s report:

The reviewer is a pulmonologist. Therefore the interest of concern was almost focused to the respirology.

The revised manuscript was well corrected for the first review.

Minor comment
1. The reason of the low rate of bacterium in sputum is suspicious due to the quality of sputum. Are there the records of sputum quality checked by Gram stain and/or Geckler classification?

2. The phrase of bronchial colonization is not recommended. The author used both of sputum colonization and bacterial colonization. The presence of bacterium in sputum does not only originate from bronchus but also nasopharyngeal area.

3. Bacteriological analysis in infectious episode is lacking. Were the pathogens of respiratory infection same as colonized bacterium? If not, how the authors explain the relationship between respiratory infection and the colonization?

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

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 have no competing interests.