Reviewer's report

Title: Systemic biomarkers of inflammation and haemostasis in patients with chronic necrotizing pulmonary aspergillosis

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Reviewer: Karen L Wood

Reviewer's report:

This study is obviously limited with only 10 subjects with CNPA and it is a heterogeneous group. The subjects are in various stages of disease and treatment (5 on prednisone and 3 on antifungal agents). It would be nice to see a bigger group of CNPA and have blood drawn before treatment. However, I doubt it is possible for the authors to get more subjects (or they would have already done so) and it is a relatively uncommon condition. That being said, I think this is a well written paper with clear findings. The procedures and methods are easy to follow.

Major Compulsory Revisions – none

Minor Essential Revisions – I would change the second to the last paragraph to something discussing the limitations of the paper. Maybe something about how there are several potential limitations to the study. Previous studies have shown antifungal drugs may have immunomodulating effects and while there were 3 patients in this study on these agents, the authors don’t think it can completely explain the findings. There is also a small sample size (but hard to get more etc).

Discretionary Revisions – none

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.