Reviewer's report

Title: C-reactive Protein levels are lowered by treatment of periodontitis

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Reviewer: Dr Moniek de Maat

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the compulsory revisions

In this study the authors report on a interesting research question. Unfortunately the number of patients is quite small, as they are well aware themselves. Some points needs attention:

In the discussion it becomes clear that the aim is to study susceptibility, introducing this in the background part would make the study more clear.

It would be interesting to see the effects in patients with metronidazole

The results section is written rather unclear: please rewrite

The number of patients is too small to assess any possible effect of confounders

The majority of patients had severe periodontitis, it is not described whether the other patients had moderate or mild periodontitis. A subdivision of table 1 in moderate and severe may be informative. It would also be helpful if in table 1 the median/mean change of CRP and fibrinogen were given.

The patient with the respiratory disease should be excluded based on this complication, not based on the CRP level. The second part of the sentence can easily be removed

It would be expected that other acute phase proteins also will decrease in parallel to CRP. The discrepancy in effects on CRP and fibrinogen needs to be discussed in more detail

The authors have split the group in CRP below and above 2 mg/L. The rationale for this splitting has to be described.

Separation of decimals should be a period and not a comma

Competing interests:
None declared.