Reviewer's report

Title: The CD14 functional gene polymorphism -260 C>T is not involved in either the susceptibility to Chlamydia trachomatis infection or the development of tubal pathology

Version: 1 Date: 6 September 2005

Reviewer: Mihai G Netea

Reviewer's report:

General

The current manuscript by Ouburg and colleagues investigates the impact of the CD14 –260C>T polymorphism, on the susceptibility to genital Chlamydia trachomatis infection, as well as to long-term complications of genital infections such as tubal infertility. The study is well-designed and present solid data which strongly suggests that this particular polymorphism is unlikely to play a major role in genital C. trachomatis infection. The manuscript is clearly written.

-------------------------------------------------------------------
Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

-------------------------------------------------------------------
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Figures 1 and 2 depict well-known aspects of TLR4 and CD14 biology, and are unlikely to enhance the value of the manuscript.
2. There are no mentions of the figures in the text of the manuscript: should be added.
3. The quality of the figures in my version was rather poor.

-------------------------------------------------------------------
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. Introduction is rather long and it could be shortened.
2. One aspect which could be touched in the Discussion is fibrosis, and the role played by TGFbeta in this process. TGFbeta is an anti-inflammatory cytokine with an important role in fibrosis (and thus very likely in post-infection tubal pathology), which is mainly synthesized through TLR2-dependent pathways. TLR2 is important for recognition of Chlamydia, and its involvement in Chlamydia-induced TGFbeta, through CD14-independent pathways, may explain why CD14 polymorphisms may not impact tubal pathology.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.