Reviewer's report

Title: Serum markers in interstitial pneumonia with and without Pneumocystis jirovecii colonization: A prospective study

Version: 1  Date: 10 February 2009

Reviewer: Anne Totet

Reviewer's report:

This study describes the use of serum markers in interstitial pneumonia, with and without colonization with Pneumocystis jirovecii. It provides original data. However, modifications are needed.

Minor essential revisions

Keywords:
Put Pneumocystis jirovecii in italics

Abstract
(and method section, page 5): Delete ‘carinii’ which is the rat-derived Pneumocystis. PCP = Pneumocystis pneumonia (A new name (Pneumocystis jiroveci) for Pneumocystis from humans. Stringer JR, Beard CB, Miller RF, Wakefield AE. Emerg Infect Dis. 2002; 8(9):891-6.)

There is a typo on the word “Methods”

The first sentence is unclear and should be rephrased (the rate of CD4 lymphocytes is not a marker of pulmonary injury).

Method.
Do not capitalize jirovecii.

Discretionary revisions

The study should be recentralized on serum markers (KL-6, SP-A, SP-D and beta D glucan). Indeed, it has been previously published that


- CD4 count is a marker of PCP or colonization (Pulmonary colonization with Pneumocystis carinii in human immunodeficiency virus-negative patients: assessing risk with blood CD4+ T cell counts. Nevez G, Raccurt C, Vincent P,

Abstract:
Methods: add here if patients were treated with corticosteroids

Background
High: be more precise (2 times)
For clarity, use the word colonization and remove the word carriage

Methods, subjects:
Reference 11 seems misplaced

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests