Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of HLA-B*5801 Allele and Allopurinol -Induced Stevens Johnson Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Version: 2 Date: 11 July 2011

Reviewer: Maja Mockenhaupt

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for sending the revised manuscript, which has been substantially improved. However, I have a few more comments to be implemented before final acceptance for publication.

1. The authors could simply state that in a prospective population-based setting the incidence of SJS/TEN is 1 - 2 cases per million inhabitants per year. Thus, they don’t need to report record linkage acquired falsely high incidence rates of 6 per million per year.

2. The drugs identified in epidemiologic studies to have a high risk for SJS/TEN are allopuriol, antibacterial sulfonamides, certain antiepileptic agents (carbamazepine, lamotrigine, phenobarbital, phenytoin), nevirapine and oxicam-NSAIDs [7]. That is by far more appropriate than “antiepileptic drugs, antibiotics and uric acid lowering agents”, as reported by the authors.

3. SJS and TEN can be referred to as SJS/TEN, since they are considered to be one disease entity of different severity. They should not be called “SJS and TEN syndromes”.

4. SCAR is the abbreviation of severe cutaneous adverse reaction(s).

5. The authors frequently speak about “Asians and Non-Asians”. However, data of the association between HLA-B*1502 and carbamazepine -induced SJS/TEN in Han-Chinese could not be confirmed for Japanese. Therefore, I suggest to be more precise and speak about Han-Chinese, if this specific ethnic group is meant, and e.g. about people with European decent or Europeans, if applicable. Asians versus Non-Asians seems far too broad in this context.

6. The authors should consider that the association of drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) caused by allopurinol and HLA-B*5801 was only shown in Han-Chinese, but has not been investigated in e.g. Europeans.

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