Author's response to reviews

Title: Cytokine gene polymorphisms and serum cytokine levels in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dr. Tim Sands,
Editor-in-Chief
BMC Medical Genetics

Re: MS: 1470398246797445
Cytokine gene polymorphisms and serum cytokine levels in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

Dear Dr. Sands,

It is my pleasure to submit the revised version of our manuscript. We have added IL-10 GCC, ACC and ATA haplotype carrier rates and haplotype frequencies in IPF patients and controls as shown in revised Table 4 (total of eight tables). In addition, per the suggestion of Dr. Grethe Neumann Andersen, we have added the association between IL-10 haplotypes and HRCT and physiological parameters (revised Table 7) as well serum cytokine levels in relation to IL-10 haplotype (revised Table 8).

The changes made in response to the reviewer comments are highlighted in yellow.

We thank Dr. Grethe Neumann Andersen for the valuable comments. Point-by-point response to the comments will be found below.

Yours sincerely,

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Reviewer: Grethe Neumann Andersen

Dear Dr. Andersen,

Thank you for reviewing our study. We are delighted to respond to your comments, as follows.

Comment 1: The authors are asked to state the IL-10 (-1082, -819, -592) GCC, ACC and ATA haplotype carrier rates and the haplotype frequencies in IPF patients and controls as well as the correlations between these haplotypes and the extent of the different lung changes, lung function measurements and PaO₂. This is because these haplotypes have been found to be associated with another Th2-driven disease, namely Sjögrens syndrome (see Hulkkonen J et al, Arthritis and Rheumatism 2001).

Response: 
As requested, we have added IL-10 haplotype carrier rates and the haplotype frequencies in IPF and controls as shown in revised Table 4. In addition, we have included the association between these haplotypes and HRCT scores and physiological parameters (revised Table 7) as well the relationship between serum cytokine levels and IL-10 haplotype (revised Table 8).

Comment 2: Please state more explicitly which base pair you have in mind each time you mention them etc…

Response: 
Thank you for pointing this out. The base pair are now included in the revised manuscript.