Reviewer’s report

Title: Urinary Transforming Growth Factor-beta 1 (TGF-b1) as a marker of response to immunosuppressive treatment in patients with crescentic nephritis.

Version: 2 Date: 5 July 2005
Reviewer: maria pia rastaldi

Reviewer’s report:

General
Although the manuscript is improved, the number of patients has been minimally increased. I understand the rarity of the disease, but I feel the overall numbers are still limited to provide good statistical analysis.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

Table 2 has been added, but it misses very important data such as interstitial infiltration and fibrosis, where the higher levels of serum creatinine in the non-responder group seem to indicate differences in these parameters.

I also requested a low magnification picture that has not been provided. In case the problem is the number of pictures, the authors can compose one multi-panel figure showing low and high magnification images.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

Just a typing error at the beginning of page 3 (the first words have been left from the first version)

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.