Reviewer's report

Title: Treatment of Multiple System Atrophy Using Intravenous Immunoglobulin.

Version: 2 Date: 28 March 2012

Reviewer: Anat Achiron

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Yes
3. Are the data sound? Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes
9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes

This pilot open label study investigated the safety and preliminary efficacy of using IVIG over a 6-month period for treatment of MSA (9 subjects enrolled, and 7 completed the protocol). The study reports of improvement in assessment of activities of daily living and motor functions post-treatment, however no effects were shown by MR imaging. As this is a pilot open label study, a placebo effect cannot be ruled out.

The stated rationale of IVIg possible effects in MSA are related to the inflammation compound of the disease.

I think this publication is appropriate for publication.

I suggest that the authors explain why a short treatment protocol was chosen?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.