Reviewer’s report

Title: Amniotic membrane transplantation as additional therapy in patients with aggressive Mooren’s ulcer

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Reviewer: Erik Chankiewitz

Reviewer’s report:

The work by Schallenberg and colleagues is a relevant contribution to the efforts which are still necessary to improve the treatment of Mooren’s ulcer. Even though the use of AMT did not result in a good clinical outcome. The number of included patients is small but the study is carefully designed and has a remarkable follow up.

Minor essential Revisions:

1) The authors follow the common suggestion of an autoimmunological origin for Mooren’s ulcer so that remain unclear why the therapeutic protocol include autologous serum eye drops. They should clarify the suspicion that the antibodies in the serum have had a negative influence of the ulceration healing.

2) The title may suggest a benefit of the amniotic membrane in Mooren’s ulcer treatment which is not supported by the findings. It should be adapted.

3) The manuscript some revision because of spelling mistakes (e.g. in the introduction: "...cyclophasphamide,...", in results: "...three times daily..."). The authors are using apostrophes inconsistent and partly incorrect throughout entire manuscript. The typographical correct form, a point with a downwards tail clockwise shout be used generally for “Mooren’s ulcer” and “Graves’ disease”. An usage of the diacritical sign only make sense in exceptional cases (e.g. grotesque or other sans serif typefaces).

I recommend the publication of the manuscript in BMC ophthalmology after the correction of this points.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

Until March 2012 I worked in the Department of Ophthalmology in Essen. But I declare that I have no competing interests.