Reviewer's report

Title: Fecal Calprotectin in Cystic Fibrosis

Version: 1 Date: 18 December 2013

Reviewer: George Vaos

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript raises the following comments:

# Minor essential revisions

Headings of the tables are not presented properly.

# Major compulsory revisions.

1. The title of the manuscript should be more specific for the question (Is fecal calprotectin an accurate inflammatory marker in cystic fibrosis?) posed.

2. ABSTRACT (conclusion). … as it does in other inflammatory conditions of the intestines, to be omitted. This phrase is not supported by the data.

3. The method is not quite appropriate as only one stool specimen (limitation) was used. Furthermore, the number of patients studied for each patient’s characteristics was relatively small.

4. Since fecal calprotectin concentration values have been reported to be different between children and adults, statistical analysis of data for both children and adults may lead to unreliable results. Besides, using two cut-off values to interpret the results may be not quite correct.

5. A shortened Discussion section would be sufficient for this manuscript. Paragraph 4, line 6: “Canani showed …… not included in that study.” and Paragraph 5. and 12 do not add to the manuscript and can be deleted.

6. Conclusion section, line 1: “There is evidence ….. adequate PERT”, to be omitted as it is not adequately supported by the data. The sentence: Some of the limitations in our study include the …… of a control group belongs to the Discussion section.

7. TABLE 1. Fecal calprotectin concentration values are lacking. Age at sample collection and at diagnosis should be in years(?)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'