Reviewer's report

**Title:** Exhaled 8-isoprostane as a prognostic marker in sarcoidosis. A short term follow-up.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 8 November 2009

**Reviewer:** Giovanna Carpagnano

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**GENERAL COMMENTS**

The study of Wojciech J. Piotrowski et al focused on prognostic value of exhaled 8-isoprostane (8-IP) in patients affected by sarcoidosis. The study was designed to assess whether high initial EBC 8-IP predispose to more severe disease; whether low initial concentrations increase a chance of early remission and finally whether remissions are connected with the decrease of EBC 8-IP.

They enrolled 40 patients followed for 6-12 months and showed that low initial 8-IP is a positive prognostic factor; a decrease of 8-IP in treated patients reflects a non-specific effect of treatment and is not related to mere regression of disease.

This is a very simple short term follow up study. Although the population is small, methodologies, figures, statistical analysis are well done and interpretation of data is adequate. However, before the manuscript can be considered acceptable for publication, some minor aspects of the study must be further elucidated.

**MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS**

1. Material and methods: Did you assess the reproducibility of exhaled markers measure? A graph indicating reproducibility of exhaled markers would have been useful.

2. Material and methods: Some more details on the exhaled breath condensate collection and store might be added. For example: how long the samples were stored before being tested? Did you collected samples at the same hour of the day to avoid circadian rhythm's influence? Did you measure the amylase concentration in your samples? Do you used internal dilution factors?

3. Material and methods: How many healthy subjects were enrolled? They seems to be 34 in methods and 39 in results.....

4. Material and methods: sex and age of controls might be specified.

5. Figure: you must delete “Figure 3” on the top of the figure (as for others figures).

6. Figure 2: To specify the p value for the comparison between stage I and stage II, and between stage II and stage III and finally between stage I and stage III
could clarify the figure.

7. Some minor typographic errors might be corrected

**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:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'