Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 15 November 2009

Reviewer: Christian Gessner

Reviewer’s report:

Authors investigated role of 8-IP in patients with sarcoidosis over maximum 9 month concerning role as a prognostic factor. It is an interesting work because non-invasive breath condensate investigation is an interesting tool for monitoring this disease. Additionally there are only few data concerning sarcoidosis and breath condensate. However, there are some points to mention (minor revisions):

1) 8-IP is also increased in other diseases and non-specific for sarcoidosis. This should be discussed. Existence of two diseases which are associated with 8-IP increase is possible and a limiting factor for daily use of this marker.

2) The group of 40 patients seems to be more preliminary. Further investigations are necessary. This should be added in discussion and conclusions should be tone down.

3) Since in many cases 8-IP levels were below detection limit the usefulness of investigation of this marker should be discussed.

4) Since TNF-alpha also plays a role in pathogenesis of sarcoidosis, this should be mentioned. Did the authors also investigate TNF-alpha? Perhaps such data especially with respect to therapy could be added. Use of TNF-alpha in EBC investigation in sarcoidosis has to be added and commented. (Inflammatory markers in the exhaled breath condensate of patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis. Rozy A, Czerniawska J, Stepniewska A, Wo#bi#ska B, Goljan A, Pu#ci#ska E, Górecka D, Chorostowska-Wynimko J. J Physiol Pharmacol. 2006 Sep;57 Suppl 4:335-40.)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.