Reviewer's report

Title: Differential Expression of C-Reactive Protein and Serum Amyloid A in Different Cell Types in the Lung Tissue of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Patients.

Version: 3 Date: 25 March 2014

Reviewer: Stelios Loukides

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Major comments
The main limitation of the current study is the fact that both surgery and Lung cancer might be biases in the whole study design. The authors must clearly state the above issue in the discussion.

Regarding the statistical analysis and particularly the correlation procedure I would like to state the following: I would prefer from the authors to perform a regression analysis in order to adjust their relationships for the underlying co-variates and particularly the disease severity, the Charlson index as well as BMI, gender and many others. The latest issue is somehow crucial since many variables are implicated in the systemic inflammatory syndrome and all these variables must be taken into account by the authors.

The authors need to clarify the term impairment. Instead of presenting their results by characterizing patients as mild or moderate impaired they have to provide values for the FEV1 % pred.

As they stated in the methods section 8% of their COPD population did not have malignant disease. It could be interesting to compare those people with those with malignant disease despite the fact that they are so few for statistical interpretations.

Another important point is whether the presented results are similarly expressed in the systemic circulation. The authors need to comment on that.

Patients are statistically significant different in regard to the presence of co-morbidities compared to normal subjects. If we consider that co-morbidities are somehow trigger the systemic inflammation then the authors must explain whether the above difference could influence their results.

Minor comments
They have to provide in table 2 the FEV1/FVC ratio.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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