Author's response to reviews

Title: Baseline new bone formation does not predict bone loss in ankylosing spondylitis - 10-year follow-up.

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Version: 2 Date: 22 October 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Norton,

Attached, please find our manuscript titled “Baseline new bone formation does not predict bone loss in ankylosing spondylitis - 10-year follow-up” which we would like to submit for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

New bone formation in ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is an emerging topic in rheumatology with regard to its coupling/uncoupling with inflammation and potential beneficial effect of TNFα blockers, especially in very early spondyloarthritis. Several papers considering this topic have been published recently. On the other hand osteoporosis in ankylosing spondylitis seems to be mediated both by inflammatory cytokines and immobility due to syndesmophytes and ankylosis (new bone formation). It has been suggested in the literature that bone formation may parallel bone loss in ankylosing spondylitis.

In our study, based on repeat measurements performed in 15 patients with AS, we show that baseline new bone formation (syndesmophytes) does not predict bone mineral content loss in quantitative computed tomography over 10-year follow-up which, to our best knowledge, is longest prospective observation of such group, to date.

The manuscript presents original research which has not been published, and which is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

I hope that you will find our manuscript to be of interest,

Sincerely,

Mariusz Korkosz, MD, PhD