Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between synovial fluid proinflammatory cytokines and radiographic grading and pain-related scores in 47 consecutive patients with osteoarthritis of the knee

Version: 4 Date: 7 February 2011

Reviewer: Myriam Gharbi

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

-Table 1 shows inconsistencies in the number of patients in each group. How could you obtain 16 total men with 21 KL scores even if a patient did not provide synovial fluid?

-Figure 1, legend. Again, did you measure cytokines concentration in synovial fluid from 37 or from 47 or 44 patients? Please clarify this in all text, table and legend.

-Figure 1. The undetectable levels of NGF need not to be shown on a graph. In the same way, the non-significant differences between groups need not to be written on the graph (A) but mentioned in text and legend.

-Figure 3. The presentation of results should be simplified. The correlation coefficients and p-values could be presented as a table where significant correlations would be highlighted.

-Results, second paragraph. Please provide the exact p-values when you found statistical significance.

Discretionary Revisions

-Results, third paragraph. Title is in italic.

-Figures legend. The legend of figure 3 is listed as figure 2.

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.