Reviewer’s report

Title: Biochemical comparison of osteoarthritic knees with and without effusion

Version: 1 Date: 28 June 2011

Reviewer: Matthias Aurich

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary Revisions:
The increase in cytokine, TIMP and MMP production could come from an activation of chondrocytes or from synovial cells. What is known about the level of synovial hyperplasia in the effusion group? In the Discussion section, 4th paragraph, the authors state that "...based on the current study, it is likely that synovitis with elevated inflammation does not vary between the groups, ...". Could the authors please discuss the suggested reason for the effusion other than synovitis.

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.