Reviewer’s report

Title: Identification of myeloid-derived suppressor cells in the synovial fluid of patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a pilot study

Version: 2
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Reviewer: Takeshi Miyamoto

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Kurkó et al. identified myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs) characterized by CD11b+CD33low/highHLADRlow/-CD15+ and CD14 negative or positive in the synovial fluid (SF) of RA patients. Most of MDSCs in SF of RA patients are CD14-negative granulocyte-like cells. Importantly, they found that RA SF cells suppressed the proliferation of anti-CD3/CD28-stimulated as well as alloantigen-induced autologous T cells.

Since data for characteristics and particularly function of human MDSCs are limited, this paper provided important information about human MDSCs in RA. However, most likely due to the limited amount of patient samples, experiments are conducted with limited reproducibility.

1. authors should show the function of RA AF cells on suppression of T cell proliferation by using other independent RA SF cells and statistical analysis in Figure 3.
2. the frequency of CD14+ and – MDSCs in SF cells should be shown in Figure 1 (means ± SEM).

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.