Reviewer's report

Title: How age and sex affect the erythrocyte sedimentation rate and C-reactive protein in early rheumatoid arthritis.

Version: 2  Date: 28 July 2014

Reviewer: Andrew Wong

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Study Summary: This study attempts to examine which inflammatory marker (ESR vs CRP for use in DAS 28 scores) is least affected by age, gender, and BMI in patients with early RA (patients with <1 year symptoms in the multicenter Dutch DREAM registry).

General Comments:
This revised (brief) manuscript is well written, of clinical relevance to practicing rheumatologists, and addressed the major concerns of the reviewers (including study aim, methods, data analysis, and limitations).

Specific Comments:
1. On page 11, Conclusions section, consider revising "but which were not included in this study" to "but which were not included in this study that may make using the ESR equally acceptable."
2. On page 21, Table 5, please include or justify why the values for sex in the CRP model was not included in the table.
3. On page 4, change "complete as possible [7,8] this slow response" to "complete as possible [7,8], this slow response".
4. On page 6, change "were repeated on the 1-years data" to "were repeated on the 1-year's data".
5. On page 12-15, References section, be consistent in the listing of the number of authors before using et al.

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.