Reviewer's report

Title: The Rheumatoid Arthritis Treat-To-Target Trial: A Cluster Randomized Trial Within the CORRONA Rheumatology Network

Version: Date: 18 April 2014

Reviewer: Burkhard Leeb

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revision.

How will the authors rule out the problem of tight therapy control and patient visits e.g. every three months?

How will the authors rule out problems with patients' attitudes, expectations and wishes if they do not randomize on a patient basis but on a centre basis?

Patients may be significantly different in different locations depending on socioeconomic or psychological status.

How will the authors rule out problems evolving from applying the CDAI as the primary outcome. The CDAI does not count the feet joints, so one may have the situation that the patients is counted in remission, but is not even able to walk out the office because of "not countable" foot involvement. And, this refers to about one third of the patients.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

Involvement in clinical trials for IBSA, Altana, Aesca, Servier, BIAL, Roche, MSD Consultancies for Schering-Plough, Wyeth, Aesca, Abbott, Amgen, Roche, Fresenius, Actelion, CSC, UCB, TRB-Chemedica, IBSA, Servier, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Pfizer, MSD

No other competing interests