Reviewer’s report

Title: The association between C-reactive protein and the likelihood of progression to joint replacement in people with rheumatoid arthritis: a retrospective observational study.

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Reviewer: Joachim Kalden

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In the manuscript the authors describe for the first time that increased serum CRP levels observed throughout the disease process are associated with an accelerated progression to total joint replacement in RA patients. The paper is of interest, specifically for rheumatologists in general practice. It is worth to be published, however, the authors should indicate in the measured the high sensetivity CRP.

With the introduction of TNFalpha antagonists in the treatment of RA patients, the authors discuss that the possible importance of the predictive value of the CRP with regard to total joint replacement might change. Still, as already stated, the paper is of interest for physicians and rheumatologists in clinical practice. For my point of view, it can be published as it stands with a small change, that the CRPs should be specified.