Reviewer’s report

Title: Lower CD28+ T cell proportions were associated with CMV-seropositivity in patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis

Version: 2 Date: 18 June 2013

Reviewer: Kouki Mori

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Many issues raised by the reviewers have been addressed appropriately. However, there remains concern about the validity of the study design, especially the way to enroll HT patients. The reason for the exclusion of 8 older patients from the HT group is unclear. Why 8, not 5 or 10? The number of HT patients was decreased rather than increased. As a result, one third of HT patients belong to the recently diagnosed HT group. Such the situation could introduce potential bias. In addition, what does the word “recently” indicate? Recently, when? Thus, the number of HT patients should be increased to be more similar to that of HC subjects and the authors should describe clearly the exclusion and inclusion criteria for the HT group and the study period.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.