Reviewer's report

Title: Fungal exposure in homes of patients with sarcoidosis

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Reviewer: Hajime Goto

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This paper deals with the fungal biomass levels in homes of patients with sarcoidosis. The authors found that the levels in homes of patients with active sarcoidosis was higher than inactive sarcoidosis or controls. As the pathogenesis of sarcoidisis has not been made clear, the findings shown here are interesting. Several comments of the level of “minor essential revisions” are as follows:

1. Patients were classified into three groups; sarcoidosis less than a year, sarcoidosis with recurrence and sarcoidosis without recurrence.

However, among these three groups, there were no difference in the markers of the activity of the disease; CD/CD8 ratio or ACE level, etc (Table 1). The authors should show the rationale to classify the patients into three groups, especially the criteria to differentiate the patients into recurrence group and into no-recurrence group.

2. In no-recurrence group, NAHA levels were low. On the other hand, it is suggested that mould levels in a certain room were vary relatively little (reference 11). Presumably, there were no differences of the environmental conditions in the homes of no-recurrence group patients. What is the reason of the decline of NAHA levels in homes of no-recurrence group?

3. The authors classified the patient with the second criteria of NAHA 13 U/m3. The rationale to set NAHA 13 U/m3 as the cut off level should be shown.

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