Reviewer's report

Title: Fungal exposure in homes of patients with sarcoidosis

Version: 1 Date: 1 September 2010

Reviewer: Olivier Michel

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1/ methods page 6: They are several concerns about the description of the patients:

- you should give the stage of sarcoidosis for each patient, before a treatment was initiated.
- you should give the used criteria to treat the patients with corticosteroids.
- on page 6 line 6, you said that stage 2 sarcoidosis were treated; as the stage 2 is not an indication of treatment, could you give the reason of this treatment
- it seems that among the 104 sarcoidosis, only 5 patients did not receive oral steroids. That means that more than 90% of your patients were treated with systemic steroids which is too high in regard with the classical recommended indication of treatment.
- did some patients present extra-thoracic sarcoidosis (heart? uveitis? other?).
- the age of the populations is surprising (> 45 years) because the prevalence of sarcoidosis is maximal between 20 and 40 years.

2/ Methods page 7: what is the repeatability of the NAHA measurement, of air collected at different time in a given house?

3/ you should give a description of the presence of moisture and markers of humidity in the home of the sarcoidosis compared to the controls.

- Minor Essential Revisions

- abstract line 8: there were less than 290 healthy subjects!
- abstract – results: « compared to control, subjects undergoing treatment... » instead of « Subjects undergoing treatment... »
- abstract – results line 3: define what is the threshold « 13 U/m3 »?
- abstract – results line 5: « 13 U/m3 » instead of « 13 »
- abstract – conclusion: « The higher levels of NAHA.. » instead of « The higher levels of enzyme.. »

- Methods para 1 line 3: « patients » instead of « patents »
- Methods para 1 line 4: « a transbronchial biopsy.. » is not enough. Generally several repeated biopsies are required to obtain significant results.
- Table 1: you should add the normal values of each parameter. SE or SD or CI?
- Page 7: Why did you express the NAHA activity as « EU » in the methods and as « U » in the results?
- Table 3 compared to table 1 and 2: the number of subjects in each group is not consistent! (for example 28 versus 30 controls)

**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'