Reviewer's report

Title: Serum levels of matrix metalloproteinases -1,-2,-3 and -9 in thoracic aortic diseases and acute myocardial ischemia

Version: 1 Date: 29 August 2009

Reviewer: Alessandro Gonfiotti

Reviewer's report:

It's an interesting prospective study on the value of matrix metalloproteinases as indicators of cardiovascular diseases. Useful conclusions are drawn from the results of the study. The whole manuscript is well written.

Major compulsory revisions
1. Conclusions should be more specific. MMP-2 and MMP-9 serum levels did not show significant difference between groups and consequently they cannot be considered as biomarkers
2. MMP-11 does not longer belong to the stromelysins

Minor essential revisions
1. In Methods section of the manuscript the authors could explain why patients with concomitant abdominal aortic aneurism, under corticosteroid or non-steroid anti-inflammatory medication treatment, history of chronic pulmonary disease or malignancy of any type are excluded from the study
2. In result section, 3rd paragraph, last sentence: the authors should change the last sentence of the paragraph – the meaning of the sentence is not clear
3. Discussion section: the first sentence of the 1st paragraph is not clear and the authors should make the necessary changes
4. As I see in Table 3, MMP-1 values were measured in 69 patients, while MMP-2, -3, -9 values were calculated in 70 patients. Why a value for MMP-1 is missing in Table 3? In Table 2 I see different total number of the included in the study patients than those appear in Table 3 (98 vs. 95). It is a typing error?

No discretionary revisions

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.