Reviewer’s report

Title: Pleural IFN-γ release assay combined with biomarkers distinguished effectively tuberculosis from malignant pleural effusion

Version: 0 Date: 23 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Bhavna Sharma

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript "Pleural IFN-γ release assay combined with biomarkers distinguished effectively tuberculosis from malignant pleural effusion" is an interesting study where authors comparatively analysed IGRA together with ADA and CEA levels in blood and pleural fluid of TPE patients and MPE cases. The findings are well descriptive and it would be good approach for differential diagnosis of TPE from MPE.

The comments are given below:

* In material method section authors stated that tuberculous pleurisy was established by manifestation of positive M. tb culture in pleural effusion. Which culture method for M.tb culturing was used is not mentioned.

* Duration of sample collection was not mentioned in methodology section.

* Again in methodology section nowhere it is mentioned that samples were collected from OPD or ward of which hospital?

* ESAT-6 and ESAT-6/CFP peptide pool was procured or synthesized??

* How ADA and CEA tests were performed, description of kit or brief description...not mentioned in methodology section.

* In line 273 M.tb is written incorrectly.

* Table-3 pleural is spelled incorrectly.

The article needs modification..

Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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