Reviewer’s report

Title: Serum concentrations of Krebs von den Lungen-6, surfactant protein D, and matrix metalloproteinase-2 as diagnostic biomarkers in patients with asbestosis and silicosis: a case-control study

Version: 0 Date: 13 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Brian Oliver

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting study.

Can the Authors please provide some data on the recruitment period for the patients (i.e. were they all recruited over the 2 years, or were the Asbestosis all recruited 1 month prior to measurement?)

Similar were the HCs recruited and stored for the same amount of time as the patient samples.

Is there any influence on the storage time on measurement of any of the factors?

Is table 2 needed? (isn't it shown in figure 1).

Were any of the the datasets parametrically distributed?

What were samples diluted in for assay?

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:

Acceptable

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