Reviewer’s report

Title: Secondary pulmonary alveolar proteinosis: A Single-center Retrospective Study (A case series and literature review)

Version: 0 Date: 14 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Stéphane Jouneau

Reviewer's report:

Zhang et al. present a single-centre retrospective study of 9 Chinese patients with secondary pulmonary alveolar proteinosis (sPAP).

I have the following comments:

- Major Essential Revisions

General comments:

1. The authors state in "background" that Ishii study included sPAP patients from Japan and therefore, due to "racial" differences, another series was needed to ascertain Ishii's conclusions. I do not think that another small series (n=9) from Asia will really add something new compared to the large series of Ishii (n=40). The only new data from this Chinese series are on the pulmonary tuberculosis associated with PAP which were not addressed in Ishii's study (only haematological diseases associated with PAP).

2. There are a lot of missing data such as arterial blood gases, pulmonary function tests, DLCO. It limits the impact of this rather small series.

3. Reviews of literature take a large place in this article, especially 2 figures and 1 table. Table 1 is the one really necessary and is very relevant to the topic.

- Minor Essential Revisions

General comment

1. The authors have to use the updated classification of PAP (Borie et al. Eur Respir Rev 2011) with "auto-immune PAP" (aPAP, instead of "idiopathic PAP"). Changes have to be made in the whole manuscript.
Reference

1. Reference 3 (Trapnell et al.) is a bit old (2003). I suggest to the authors to add another more recent review on PAP (Borie et al. Eur Respir Rev 2011).

2. Reference 11 is not the correct one (letter to the Editor and not a case report). The correct article is Ballerie A et al. Eur Respir J 2016: Association of pulmonary alveolar proteinosis and fibrosis: patient with GATA2 deficiency.

- Minor Presentation Revisions

Discussion:

3. Page 6, line 2: Aspergillus

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

Yes

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

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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