Reviewer’s report

Title: Serum (1-3)-β-D-Glucan and Galactomannan Levels in Patients with Cystic Fibrosis: a Retrospective Cohort Study

Version: 1 Date: 20 Feb 2018

Reviewer: Olaf Eickmeier

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting paper from a research group focusing on serum (1-3)-β-D-Glucan and Galactomannan levels in patients with cystic fibrosis and potential association with Aspergillus disease severity. The paper claims a link between expression of D-Glucan and Galactomannan levels abundance in serum and lung function in CF patients. The claims are reasonably argued with quotations. I think it is an important paper providing new CF specific cut-off levels for GM. This makes sense due to the fact that GM has only been evaluated for the neutropenic patients so far. This paper is primarily interesting for CF specialists.

Minor Comments:

- Please, add a mutation list of the included CF patients and pancreas status.

- I would like to recommend in terms of determination the grade of pulmonary obstruction to discriminate between FEV1/VC >80% and below 80%. FEV1 alone is too narrow. This might change your results dramatically. You may cite the work by Eckrich J et al. published in JCF 2017 (PMID: 27296563)

- I would like to recommend showing FEV1 (%pred.) and GM correlations as a graph, it provides better readability than a table.

- Have you also determined GM sputum levels? If not, please, comment on this. Do sputum levels offer a more specific answer to your questions? If there is Aspergillus in the airways, do we always find GM in the airways?

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.

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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