Reviewer’s report

Title: Airway smooth muscle as an underutilised biomarker: a case report

Version: 0 Date: 05 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Deepak Deshpande

Reviewer's report:

In this case report the authors highlight the importance of histology for definitive diagnosis and for choosing appropriate treatment protocols for patients with asthma and COPD overlap. The finding clearly demonstrate the utility of smooth muscle thickness as a biomarker in this diagnosis. Following are a few suggestions to improve the quality of the paper.

1. Histology image and figure legend need additional annotations. Include type of stain used, magnification of the image and any other details (e.g. basement membrane, epithelial cells etc) that can be highlighted in the figure. If the authors have biopsy after BT, that would be helpful.

2. In the abstract, clearly state that biopsy samples were used for histological evaluation particularly focusing on smooth muscle mass.

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.

Unable to assess

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

Acceptable

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