Reviewer’s report

Title: Elevated serum OX40L is a biomarker for identifying corticosteroid resistance in pediatric asthma patients

Version: 0 Date: 19 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Yvonne Huang

Reviewer’s report:

Overall an interesting scientific premise to examine OX40L levels in a clinical cohort to explore relationships to steroid-responsive vs. -resistant asthma. However, there are a number of issues that need to be addressed.

1. The Ethics statement is not sufficient in that it potentially conflicts with the described study design, specifically the statement of ICS/salbutamol administration in Methods (page 5 lines 46-49) to determine steroid sensitivity by ICS. Please readdress and in consideration of point #3 below.

3. Per above in Methods, need to better describe what ICS therapy (type, dose) was administered, and was this standardized (the same) for all subjects or patients? Differences in this may impact the results. What was the context for this intervention (clinical or investigational design)? Also what was the rationale for determining response by ICS and the criteria used to determine responsiveness? Typically oral (or systemic) administration of steroid has been used in clinical trials. Finally there is typo regarding definition of SRA (line 54)

4. Please highlight subheadings for each section in the Results, perhaps in bold or underline. Also spell out abbreviations on initial mention, e.g. VDBP.

5. Finally, it is strongly suggested that assistance be obtained from a native English writer to review and proofread for language edits. There are a number of grammatical, typographical, or syntax errors that need to be corrected.

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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