Reviewer’s report

Title: Blood cells for the differentiation of airway inflammatory phenotypes in COPD exacerbations

Version: 5 Date: 28 Jan 2020

Reviewer: Stephen Bourke

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed my previous concerns. Thank you. There is one further minor point which could be resolved either by removing reference 25 from line 210 or alternative wording. Line 210 refers to RCTs (in the pleural) of blood eosinophil directed prednisolone therapy. Only Mona Bafadhel's study assessed blood eosinophils as a biomarker to direct prednisolone therapy. Reference 25 (Siddiqui et al) is a post hoc analysis of the FORWARD trial data, assessing blood eosinophils as a biomarker of response to inhaled ICS/LABA v LABA.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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