Reviewer’s report

Title: Concordance for Changes in Allergic Asthma Domain Variables after Short-term Corticosteroid Therapy

Version: 0 Date: 10 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Andrei Malinovschi

Reviewer's report:

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I read with interest the article of Silkoff et al. that studied the relation between changes in inflammation, lung function and symptoms in asthma patients starting ICS treatment. Even if the findings are not novel, the amount of studies in the literature focusing on longitudinal changes in these aspects in steroid-naïve subjects with asthma starting ICS is limited. I have however a number of concerns regarding the study, summarized below as major and minor comments.

My major comments are:

- I am not sure that ASX, a new questionnaire instrument, is adding so much to the present paper. As it is a novel instrument, it deserves a separate paper to be validated. In the present form, a non-validated instrument, which is not described in detail, is not strengthening the present manuscript.

- ACQ-6 should have been used instead of ACQ-7 if the Authors wanted to disentangle symptoms from lung function. I suggest the authors to make the same analyses for ACQ-6.

Minor comments:

- Doses of ICS and proportion of subjects starting OCS should be presented.

- Is there any information available on IgE sensitization? If yes, this should be included.

- Is there any information available on adherence to medication? If yes, this should be included.

- A reference regarding validation of Fenom PRO towards other FeNO instruments should be included.
Reference 13 is not about anti-IgE treatment, but about optimized anti-inflammatory treatment (ICS +/- LTRA).

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

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