Reviewer's report

Title: Systemic autoimmune disease in asbestosis rapidly responding to anti-interleukin-1beta antibody canakinumab

Version: 2 Date: 12 February 2015

Reviewer: Takemi Otsuki

Reviewer's report:

This is interest case report and I agree that anti-IL-1# antibody may be the good tools to treat autoimmune diseases complicated with exposure to silica as well as asbestos.

This manuscript is judged as "Minor Essential Revisions"

The following issues should be answered by authors.

1) Pleural plaque only define that patient’s past asbestos exposure. The diagnosis of asbestosis would be using the radiological criteria recommended by ILO guideline. I feel this case is systemic autoimmune diseases probably caused by past asbestos exposure. How authors feel?

2) Although ref #6 is well-written review regarding asbestos exposure and occurrence of autoimmune diseases, I think generally silicosis is much more complicated with autoimmune diseases rather than asbestos-exposed patients. Thus, lines 57-63 as well as some discussion part, authors should describe this aspect.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I do not have any COI for this manuscript to declare.