Reviewer’s report

Title: Rheumatoid Arthritis patients with fibromyalgic clinical features have significantly less synovitis as defined by power Doppler ultrasound

Version: 0 Date: 25 Jun 2016

Reviewer: Thurayya Arayssi

Reviewer's report:

The authors attempt to address a common practical problem that rheumatologists treating RA patients encounter on regular basis: treatment of RA patients with FMS and differentiating whether the pain is caused by the RA or FMS. The authors provide a clear rationale for the study, enroll an appropriate group of patients, document ethical approval, summarize the results and discuss them. Few issues, however are unclear:

1. Patients classification into the different groups is hard to follow in the text. Perhaps a flow chart would help clarify how the patients enrolled were classified into 1) patients with RA meeting criteria for FMS and 2) control group: patients with RA who did not meet the criteria for FMS.

2. It would be helpful to add how many of the enrolled patients were on treatment, how many are CCP positive and if a CRP is available. Describe the statistical methods for all of the intended outcomes. The authors state using the Mann-Whitney for the PD and GS comparisons but not the rest of the outcomes.

3. The results section refer to a figure 1, line 42, which is not included in the manuscript.

4. Table 1 does not show the p value in comparing the intended groups. It only shows descriptive statistics.

5. Table 2 is also descriptive but does not show the sample size for each of the groups.

6. Ensure that all abbreviations are included underneath the tables. It makes it easier to read.

7. What is PG in Table-1. It is not in the abbreviation list.

8. No sure why 95% CI is reported for age. Is this the age range?
9. The abbreviations in the table are inconsistent which makes it confusing. TJC in table 1, TJ in table 2. Please address.

10. In the discussion, the authors need to address the reasons for the negative findings but fail to mention what are the lessons learned from this pilot study that will be applied to the larger study.

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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?

If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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:

Acceptable

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