Reviewer’s report

Title: S100A4 is elevated in axial spondyloarthritis: a potential link to disease severity

Version: 0 Date: 25 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Savino Sciascia

Reviewer's report:

Main comments
-The study could benefit of the inclusion of other controls with Rheumatic Diseases (e.g. RA)
-It would be informative to stratify patients according to exposure to different drugs at the time of the serum sampling, mainly steroids (also stratifying for low-medium-high doses).
-Statistical analysis needs further clarification. In the results the Authors refers to "when adjusted for disease duration, sex, age, BASDAI and CRP levels, the p-value reached the border of the statistical significance". The methods section needs to me implmented to clarify these aspects.

Minor comments
Some language editing is required (e.g., we were curious..."
It is out of the scope of the paper to analyse pathogenic aspects. THe following sentence should be omitted or re-phrased "We thus hypothesized that S100A4 protein may participate in the formation of syndesmophytes in patients with axSpA."

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:
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