Reviewer’s report

Title: Serum 20S proteasome levels are associated with disease activity in MPO-ANCA-associated microscopic polyangiitis

Version: 3 Date: 22 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Massimo Radin

Reviewer's report:

The Authors investigate the possible role of serum 20S proteasome levels in patients with MPO-ANCA associated microscopic polyangiitis. The authors should be congratulated, since the topic is surely of interest in the current vasculitis research.

Some comments:

Major Points
1. The manuscript needs language editing from an English native speaker to improve its readability. X2
2. As a potential marker of inflammation erythrocytes sedimentation rate is of importance when considering patients with MPA, however in the text this information is missing.

Minor Points
1. In-House ELISA testing might lack in reproducibility and should be acknowledged in the limitations of the study
2. In order to improve the readability, the Authors should consider implementing Table 1 with 20S-proteasome levels between groups

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal