Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 23 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Roberta Fenoglio

Reviewer's report:

This is a potentially interesting study focusing on the diagnostic value of serum proteasome in ANCA associated vasculitis and emphasizes the need to identify new serological markers of vasculitis activity.

Data are novel but with limited impact on the general clinical management. It is remain undressed if this method can be applied in clinical practice and if it can be handled by all labs and how expensive it is.

Moreover, this paper suffers from some methodological limitations and results do not support any definite conclusion.

Major concerns:
- The method described in the abstract and in the paper are misleading
- The number of patients investigated is too small to assess definite conclusions
- More data should be provided about patient clinical history, including therapeutic prescriptions;
- The serological markers should have been correlated with histological findings

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.

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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None

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