Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of carvedilol treatment on cardiac cAMP response element binding protein expression and phosphorylation in acute coxsackievirus B3-induced myocarditis

Version: 1 Date: 28 August 2013

Reviewer: Andreas Henke

Reviewer's report:

To the authors:

In the present manuscript the authors demonstrate a set of experiments to analyze the role of carvediol treatment on CREB expression phosphorylation in coxsackievirus B3 (CVB3)-infected mice. From my point of view, the experiments were well performed and controlled. But prior publication several comments should be addressed as it is stated here:

Minor essential revisions:
1. Next time, please provide a manuscript with numbered lines. This will help a lot to direct comments.
2. M+M section, “Mouse model of viral myocarditis”: Please provide the origin of the CVB3 strain used in the experiments. And please give a better description about the experimental setup in view of the number of mice in each experiments and how often you repeated the experiments.
3. M+M section, “Detection of apoptosis”: Please rewrite this section because it does not fit with the results presented in Figure 5. You write “nuclei with brown staining indicated…..”, but the pictures show a fluorescent staining. In addition, please use DAPI co-staining to really demonstrate the nuclei.
4. Result section, “ELISA analysis of cytokine levels in the heart”: How do you know that the cytokines were really in heart tissues and not in the blood, which was present in your samples as well? Do you have data to show cytokine concentrations in the blood itself?
5. In the description of your Figures please use another word for “myocarditis”, because you find myocarditis in your carvediol-treated mice as well.
6. Figure 6: Instead of demonstrating PCR results it would be much more appropriate to show viral titers. Please add these results.
7. Figure 8: Next time, please provide data based on quantitative RT-PCR.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.