Reviewer’s report

Title: Infection with HIV and HCV enhances the release of Fatty Acid Synthase into circulation: Evidence for a novel indicator of viral co-infection

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Reviewer: Tianyi Wang

Reviewer’s report:

This report from Gerard Aragonès et al is a clinical study trying to establish correlation between the serum level of Fatty acid synthase serum level and HIV (HCV) infection. Overall it is an interesting and important study that may potentially lead to the discovery of a new biomarker. Several minor concerns regarding the data analyses should be clarified:

1) in Figure 1, the treat may confound the results. Would it be possible for the authors to also compare the serum FASN level between healthy participants and HIV-infected, untreated patients? It is crucial to separate the effect due to infection from the effect due to treatment as these drugs are known to cause lipid distrophy.

2) In Figure 2, perhaps viral load is a better indicator here. The authors should also analyze the data by comparing the cytokine levels between healthy participants and those infected individuals with detectable and undetectable viral loads.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

NO