Reviewer's report

Title: The overexpression of Sterol Carrier Protein 2 gene in patients of hereditary cholesterol gallstones

Version: 6 Date: 28 September 2010

Reviewer: Michael Fuchs

Reviewer's report:

The study of Cui et al. studied the gene expression of SCP2 in cholesterol gallstone patients and controls and measured biliary lipid concentration of gallbladder bile in thee individuals as well. The study further supports the notion that SCP2 participates in the formation of cholesterol gallstones, although the molecular mechanisms are still only partially resolved and were not aim of the study.

Major comments:
1. The study provides limited new data when compared with Ito et al (Gastroenterology 1996). This study was cited by the authors. This clearly needs to be corrected and the authors should highlight the new information their study adds to the literature.
2. The manuscripts is poorly written, its English needs improvement and it should be shortened by 30% which can be achieved with a more concise writing style.
3. Limitations of the study (e.g. no molecular mechanism studied) are not appropriately addressed.

Minor comments:
1. References 1 and 2 do not support the first sentence in the Background section.
2. There is very limited reference in the Methods section.
3. The last paragraph in the Background section should be part of the Methods section.
4. The results displayed in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 may be expressed as percent of control. The legend for Fig. 2 is incomplete. It also appears that the SCP2 protein expression is higher in controls than in gallstone carriers.
5. Figure 4 and Table 1 can be eliminated and placed in the text of the Results section.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I DO NOT HAVE ANY COMPETING INTERESTS.