Reviewer’s report

Title: Serum adiponectin and transient elastography (FibroScan) as non-invasive markers for postoperative biliary atresia

Version: 1 Date: 20 January 2011

Reviewer: Themis Silveira

Reviewer’s report:

RE: "Serum adiponectin and transient elastography (FibroScan) as non-invasive markers for postoperative biliary atresia"

Peer review: Themis Reverbel da Silveira MD, PhD

- "It is a very good article about Biliary Atresia (BA) and an attempt to develop noninvasive tests for the assessment of fibrogenic progression of this disease. The article follows a successful investigational research subject: the role of cytokines and growth factors in physiopathology of BA. The authors (prof. Yong Poovorawan and colaborators) recently reported interesting results related to biochemical parameters like basic fibroblast growth factor, stem cell factor, bone morphogenetic protein 7 and osteopontin in BA. Concerning elastography, a new medical technique recently used in children, normal values have not yet been validated in children and deserve further and prospective studies. I suggest that one reference could be added: de Ledinghen V et al. "Liver stiffness measurement in children using FibroScan: feasibility study and comparison with Fibrotest, aspartate transaminase to platelets ratio index and liver biopsy". Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition 2007; 45: 443.

In conclusion: this investigation showed, nicely, the potential role of serum adiponectin and elastography for monitoring the progression of hepatic fibrosis in BA patients."

Peer review: Themis Reverbel da Silveira MD, PhD

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.