Reviewer's report

Title: The exact time of collagen peak in bile duct ligated rat model

Version: 4 Date: 27 January 2011

Reviewer: Martin Hennenberg

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The manuscript has been improved considerably. However, some points have not been addressed and still need to be done:

Table 1:
Please replace the commas by dots.

The assignment of figures to legends needs to be urgently corrected. E.g., there are legends for Fig. 1 to Fig. 6, but Figure 1-7 in total.

In Fig. 5-7, the authors should prefer bar diagrams instead of showing time courses.

The discussion has been improved substantially, in particular the new conclusion section is very fine.

However, the authors should urgently insert brief comments to following two points:

1. The study focussed on fibrosis. As animals were sacrificed after 28, any cirrhosis should not be expected anyway. Cirrhosis in BDL rats occurs earliest 4-6 weeks after ligation.

2. Although markers of fibrosis and liver damage declined after the 3-week peak, they still remained elevated 4 weeks after ligation, compared to control groups. Thus, this animal model may in fact be suitable to study fibrosis and experimental therapies, provided that correct untreated control groups are included.