Reviewer’s report

Title: Impaired Mitochondrial beta-Oxidation in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C: Relation with Viral Load and Insulin Resistance

Version: 1 Date: 2 December 2012

Reviewer: Amedeo Lonardo

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SPECIFIC COMMENT

MAJOR

1. Improve the explanation of the rationale underlying this study: reference to adult Adult-onset type 2 citrullinemia is quite difficult to understand.
2. Define criteria for inclusion of healthy controls.
3. Expand the series of individuals with chronic hepatitis C to at least 100 cases.
4. Include a second control group of age and gender-matched patients with chronic hepatitis B/NASH.
5. Use multivariate analysis to assess independent predictors of impaired mitochondrial beta-oxidation: is it HCV or is it liver histology (irrespective of etiology).
6. Discuss the limitations of the study: is there any possibility for spurious findings?

MINOR

1. Editing by a native English speaker is recommended.
2. Seven figures are uncommon.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal.

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published.

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.