Reviewer’s report

Title: Hyperammonia Induces Specific Liver Injury through an Intrinsic Ca2+-independent Apoptosis Pathway

Version: 2 Date: 2 May 2014

Reviewer: Manlio Vinciguerra

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This study is intended to study hyperammonia-specific liver injury. The study is of relevance to the field as the effects of ammonia on the hepatocytes themselves is not completely clear. The authors use established HepG2 cell models to show that hyperammonia induces specific liver injury through an intrinsic Ca2+-independent apoptosis pathway. The design is clear and the methods are sounds. The conclusions are consistent with the results. I have only minor but essential comments.

Minor Essential Revisions

The manuscript needs extensive proof-reading and correction by an English native.

Typos: Line 44, 51, 54, 125, 163, 176, 193, 194, 206, 215, 230, 244, 256, 257, 266

Insert spaces between one paragraph of Results and the other. Sometime the spaces are there, sometime they are not there. Be consistent.

Line 149: “Add…”. This is not a lab protocol, but the Material&Methods section.

Be consistent between “h” and “hours” throughout the manuscript.

Lines 192-195, 230 are grammatically obscure.

Line 205: a sentence can’t start with “And”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests