Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of energy metabolism related genes in the gastric tissue of obese individuals with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

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Reviewer: Munechika Enjoji

Reviewer's report:

Authors presented the expression profiles of energy metabolism associated genes in gastric tissue of obese NAFLD patients and assessed the association of the expression levels with hepatic steatosis, inflammation, fibrosis, and NASH. This study includes novel findings which may be helpful for investigation of NAFLD. Then, this report has potential for publication, I think. But there are some incoherent expressions in the text. Major Compulsory Revisions are needed.

Comments
1. [Abstract: 1st line] Authors wrote “this energy balance…..”. What is the meaning of “this”?

2. [Methods] What extent of gastric wall was included in your samples for PCR, mucosa only, with submucosa, or entire gastric wall? Which kind of cells is important for this study?

3. [Abstract & Discussion] Authors wrote “accumulation of the fat in the liver parenchyma is accompanied by downregulation of genes encoding for CPE and IL1B in the gastric mucosa of same patient”. But the data of expression levels of these genes were not shown in different stage of fatty liver in same patient.

4. Do you have any data of patients without obesity, which may be a better control?

5. [Methods] Please show us the definition of morbidly obese NAFLD patients. How to select the enrolled patients?

6. [Introduction] More detailed explanation of your previous manuscript (reference No 3) should be presented.

7. [Table 1] Patient number of advanced inflammation is 13. But the number of steatosis with advanced inflammation (n=23) and that of NASH with advanced inflammation (n=18) are larger than 13. In addition, the number of NASH with advanced inflammation (n=18) are larger than that of NASH (n=15).

8. [Figures] I do not get the meaning of Figure 2. Are these figures required?

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