Reviewer's report

Title: Child-Pugh Classification Dependent Alterations in Serum Leptin Levels among Cirrhotic Patients: A Case Controlled Study

Version: 1 Date: 21 June 2004

Reviewer: Roberto Testa

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper assess the role of the clinical grading of viral cirrhosis on serum leptin levels in relationships both to nutritional status and to gender. These are not novel findings, but some characteristics of the study are originals: i.e. the focus on viral origin of the cirrhosis, and the balanced diet administered, before the study, both to cirrhotic patients and to controls. The methods are appropriate and well described; the work can be replicated. The data are partially sound and apparently correct: in Fig. 1 the leptin levels were not found; the Fig. 2 could integrate the Fig. 1, but unfortunately the median values are not visible. Therefore the manuscript adhere partially to relevant standards for reporting and data deposition. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data. The title and the abstract accurately convey what has been found.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Leptin data must be delete in Fig. 1: the leptin levels in controls and in whole cirrhotic group may be reported in the text, while the leptin level distribution according to gender and to Child's class were yet reported in Fig. 2.
2. In the linear regression analysis must be pointed-out that among independent variables the viral etiologic factors are virus B and virus C, and the Child-Pugh's classification is intended A-B-C.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: